17 May 2019 Fi2019/ 01996

Ministry of Finance

Reply to Leilani Farha

With reference to the Joint Communication sent by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination, reference OL SWE 1/2019 of 22 March 2019.

The letter is addressed to the Foreign Minister but given that the issue concerns the housing market it falls under my responsibility to answer. I welcome the critique and can assure you that the Swedish government monitors the situation for low income household on the housing market closely.

In the end of 2017 the tenant association, together with the branch organization for landlords/property owner and Public Housing Sweden (former SABO), which represent private and municipal landlords, agreed on a mutual template for so-called consultation agreements. When conducting major renovations, the template can be used by the landlord and tenants to more easily agree on how the process should proceed.

Housing is a human right and the Swedish government will continue to work together with the municipalities, who have the responsibility to plan for the housing supply for all, to ensure that the public commitment will continue to be strong regarding housing issues.

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