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The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with reference to the « note verbale » SPB/SHD/NF/GT dated on the 19th of November 2019 concerning the draft report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing has the honor to express the following comments :

- The guidelines n.4 and 9, lumps migrants and refugees together as targeted social groups vulnerable to discrimination regarding housing, while they belong to two different legal system as per New York declaration in 2016, the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees.
- Migrants in any country are subject to laws and national policies that are cornerstones of the sovereignty of each and every state. Moreover, countries have regulations regarding immovable foreign ownership. As for illegal migration, “adequate housing” remains in contingent upon legalizing the status of the persons concerned.
- Refugees are by definition in host countries on a temporary basis, waiting for solutions in order to return their countries of origin. However, refugees as subject of «international protection» are primarily the responsibility of the entire international community through the implementation of the equitable principle of burden and responsibility sharing, and “adequate housing” for refugees is a facet of the application of this principle until the achievement of durable solution such as the voluntary repatriation to the country of origin and the 3rd countries solutions (resettlement and complementary pathways). Only “local integration” put the housing burden on the shoulders of states (art. 21 of the 1951 convention). However, local integration is a sovereign decision and an option to be exercised by States, including by providing durable legal status and naturalization. Thus, the mention of refugees in this draft report and the responsibility of states toward them regarding “adequate housing”, is asking to promote the local integration, and this is unacceptable to many host countries.

The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the expression of its highest consideration.



Geneva, November 25, 2009

**Secretariat of the Office of the
High Commissioner for
Human Rights (OHCHR)**