

**Mr. Stephen J. TOOPE**

*Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*

**Presidency**

The EU and Romania and Bulgaria would like to thank you for your presentation and the comprehensive report you have provided us. We would like to present the following questions:

1. As you referred to in your statement, the fight against terrorism implies the need to take complex legal measures. You already gave several useful examples, but could you elaborate further on the good practices that are in conformity with the commitments made in the declaration on enforced disappearances?
2. How would the Working Group describe the situation of disappearances in Sri Lanka compared to other current conflicts around the world?

**Ms. Gay MCDUGALL**

*IE on minority issues*

*Presidency*

The European Union thanks you Ms. McDougall for this first report and your analysis on the basis of the mandate and the way to proceed, including your approach of actively engaging with Governments, civil society, representatives of minority groups and other relevant actors.

1. In your report you highlight that “the role of minority rights in promoting equitable development as well as peace and security has not yet been fully appreciated”. How do you envisage your role in raising greater awareness of the Declaration on the Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic Minorities, what plans and activities do you have in mind regarding its promotion the interrelation between minority rights and conflict prevention?
2. In your report, you identify four broad areas of concern relating to minorities around the world, namely protecting a minority’s existence; protecting and promoting cultural and social identity; ensuring effective non-discrimination and equality as well as ensuring effective participation of persons belonging to minorities in public life. We would appreciate hearing more about how you plan to proceed with identifying and disseminating best practices, in particular in relation to the first two areas of concern. It would be interesting to hear more about the trends you have been able to identify in analysing the information received in response to your questionnaire?

Thank you Mr. President.

**Mr. Rodolfo STAVENHAGEN**

*SR on indigenous people*

*Presidency*

The European Union would like to commend you for the report you have submitted to the Council and your diligent work to document important aspects of the status of rights of indigenous peoples.

The EU would like to address the following questions:

1. You and several speakers today referred to the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recently adopted by the Human Rights Council. How do you consider this instrument to impact your work for the advancement of the rights and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples?
2. How do you evaluate indigenous peoples' access to the Human Rights Council, and how do you envisage the best possible participation by indigenous peoples in the sessions, mechanisms and processes of the HRC? How do we ensure the necessary synergy between the Council and the Permanent Forum ?
3. You are also pointing to the need for an international code of conduct for the protection of the rights of the indigenous peoples for transnational corporations operating in indigenous regions. We understand that the Secretary-General's Special Representative on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises is due to hold a regional consultation in Colombia focused on the impact of TNCs' activities on indigenous communities. Have you been in touch with the SRSG to exchange views on this important aspect of corporate social responsibility?