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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 20 October 2011, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Zelioli (Vice-Chair) (Italy)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 69: Promotion and protection of human rights (continued) (A/66/87)

- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (continued) (A/66/274, A/66/216/, A/66/272, A/66/342, A/66/342/Add.1, A/66/204, A/66/284, A/66/253, A/66/293, A/66/372, A/66/161, A/66/310, A/66/156, A/66/203, A/66/285, A/66/262, A/66/330, A/66/268, A/66/264, A/66/289, A/66/283, A/66/254, A/66/271, A/66/270, A/66/269, A/66/265, A/66/290, A/66/325, A/66/225, and A/66/314)
- (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (continued) (A/66/343, A/66/267, A/66/361, A/66/322, A/66/358, A/66/365, A/66/374, and A/66/518)
- 1. **Mr. Lumina** (Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly, economic, social and cultural rights) said that export credit agencies, the major source of public financing for foreign corporate involvement in large-scale industrial and infrastructure projects, had assumed an increasingly significant global role in recent years. A large number of such projects, however, had severe environmental, social, and human rights impacts, and in some cases had contributed to unsustainable sovereign debt burdens.
- Export credit agency-related debt constituted the largest component of developing-country debt. It contributed directly to sovereign debt when an agency lent to a Government or foreign public entity, or made guaranteed or insured commercial credit available to such entities or to Governments; in the event of default by the public entity, its debt became part of the country's sovereign debt. Export credits generated sovereign debt indirectly in the form of sovereign counter-guarantees, where an agency obtained from the recipient's Government a sovereign counter-guarantee for project insurance accorded by the agency to an exporter. In the event of default or failure of the project, the agency compensated the company, then sought reimbursement from the Government; if the Government was unable to pay, the amount owed was added to the country's sovereign debt. The generous

- terms needed in order to attract private investments for export credit agency projects could have serious budgetary implications for Governments.
- 3. Backing by such agencies reduced pressure on investors to exercise due diligence in assessing risk, and could thus contribute to the debt problems of developing countries. Cancelled export credit agency debts could be reported as official development assistance and hence be funded by official aid budgets.
- and Lack of transparency accountability, 4. ascribable to various factors, increased the difficulty of ensuring that export credit agencies provided responsible credit, performed due diligence and respected human rights and environment protection standards. Loans and guarantees for extractive industry projects were particularly detrimental to human rights and the environment, and such projects had also been implicated in corruption cases. States were under obligation to regulate their activities and to ensure that the projects supported did not result in or contribute to human rights abuses. Private corporations financially supported by export credit agencies also bore responsibility for the human rights impact of their activities, in addition to their obligation to comply with national laws.
- 5. The current international regulatory framework for their activities consisted of non-binding principles and recommendations adopted by the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers (the Berne Union) and the Organization for **Economic** Cooperation and Development (OECD). The role of the Berne Union was to exchange information on foreign buyers in order to reduce commercial risk. The OECD 2003 Common Approaches established non-binding commercial project procedures for Governments and export credit agencies, they covered environment impact but made no reference to human rights. As the operations of such agencies continued to be largely unregulated, a more robust international regulatory framework was needed.
- 6. **Ms.** Camino (Cuba) said that her delegation encouraged the Independent Expert to pursue his work on the Draft Guiding Principles on Foreign Debt and Human Rights, and looked forward to an update on progress achieved at the next session of the General Assembly.

- 7. **Mr. Lumina** (Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly, economic, social and cultural rights) said that the work on the Draft Guiding Principles was progressing well. The draft would be considered at a meeting in November 2011, and an intergovernmental consultation would be held early in 2012. It was hoped that the text would be approved by all States prior to submission to the Human Rights Council at the June 2012 session.
- 8. **Mr. Heyns** (Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions) said that his report (A/66/330) analysed the international standards applicable to the use of lethal force by law enforcement officers during arrest, while properly recognizing the obligation of law enforcement officials and States to protect the public. His research had focused on the question of whether law enforcement officers had special powers to use lethal force in situations of resisting arrest. While the discussion focused on the legal framework for arrest, the real-world factors underlying excessive use of force, grounded in deficiencies in institutions and the rule of law, needed to be better understood and addressed.
- 9. The guidepost for limitation of the right to life had to be the principle that under closely defined circumstances one life could be taken as a last resort in order to protect another life or lives, not to protect other rights and interests. When because of the imminence of the threat the police had no choice but to shoot a resisting suspect, such action could be considered justified as an act of private defence, because the purpose was to save life, and the life of an innocent party took priority over that of the aggressor.
- 10. By international standards, use of lethal force during arrest was permissible, in exercise of the power of private defence available to everyone, only when the suspect had committed or threatened to commit a crime involving serious violence or posed an immediate or on-going threat, the action was aimed at protecting life, and no less harmful means were available.
- 11. In many jurisdictions the determining consideration for use of force was the seriousness of the crime, but there was increasing focus on objective indicators of continuing danger posed by suspects. Many domestic legal systems imposed the general

- requirement of "reasonableness" on the part of the police, a term unduly open to interpretation.
- 12. The ideal model for the use of lethal force during arrest appeared to be one in which the suspect had committed a violent crime and posed a continuing danger to society, the model that most strongly embodied the protection of life principle. The question was to determine if a combination of legislation, court decisions, police training, and practice as a whole in a given country met those standards.
- 13. Targeted killing, in the form of drone attacks or raids outside the context of armed conflict, violated the human rights framework on arrest and raised serious right-to-life issues. When they were carried out in a non-international armed conflict, international human rights as well as humanitarian law applied. The latter required the presence of military necessity and direct participation in hostilities before targeting a person, which made some forms of targeted killing highly problematic. Absent imminent attack and threat, the right to self-defence did not come into play. State killing of an opponent and of its own citizens in other countries, outside armed conflict, set a problematic precedent. Whether or not such actions complied with domestic law, the international community was still required to impose its standards.
- 14. Drone warfare challenged the assumptions of international humanitarian law and posed a risk to a system designed to be a central ingredient in dealing with future conflicts. Drone technology and the safety it offered to its operators spread the range of potential targets across the globe, and allowed States to eliminate their opponents wherever they were at no risk to their own people. Pending decision by the international community on how to deal with drones and targeted killing as tools of warfare, the current legal system needed to provide the framework within which States should act.
- 15. He had made a number of recommendations in his report, including reform of domestic laws on arrest to bring them into conformity with international standards. Guidance for the police needed to focus on the laws and values that should inform their use of, and the permissible levels of, force, and on other issues, such as the need to give priority to the safety of ordinary citizens. Laws that allowed use of lethal force in defence of property, and those that gave citizens the same powers as the police during arrest, should be

revoked. States should ensure that the overall effect of laws, training, policies and practices ensured that fleeing suspects who had committed violent crimes would be shot only if they posed a continuing threat to the lives of others. Governments needed to focus on development of police tools and strategies that minimized the need for use of lethal force during arrest. Police and independent monitoring agencies needed to keep data on use of lethal force and other dangerous forms of coercion. Targeted killings should not be undertaken in ways that undermined human rights or humanitarian law, and such killings should be reviewed by the international community.

- 16. **Ms. Martin** (United States of America) said that her country condemned extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions. It agreed that all States were obligated to take effective measures to combat such killings and punish perpetrators; it would review the principles and recommendations put forth by the Special Rapporteur.
- 17. The report focused on domestic police powers and the distinctions between the two bodies of international law that could apply to the use of force by Governments: international human rights law governing use of lethal force in domestic law enforcement situations, and international humanitarian law governing the use of force in armed conflict. The United States was concerned that the comments on operations during armed conflict obscured that distinction and contributed to confusion about the applicable rules.
- 18. Her delegation had concerns regarding the study of the operation against Osama bin Laden, and rejected any suggestion that his killing could be considered unlawful. He had been the leader of an enemy force that was continuing to plot attacks against the United States of America. Under the law of war he was thus a legitimate target, and targeting him was an act of national self-defence. The conduct of the operation had comported with law-of-war principles of distinction and proportionality. United States forces had been prepared to capture him if he attempted to surrender. He did not so attempt, and those forces were authorized to use force against him.
- 19. Her Government acknowledged that the use of force against al-Qaeda outside of active battlefields was an issue on which there was disagreement, and viewed its authority to use force in such situations as

being subject to rules of international law that had to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- 20. **Ms. Brichta** (Brazil) said that her country shared the view that observance of international human rights standards and humanitarian law must guide police action in cases of arrest, and that human rights training and use of modern law enforcement measures were important. The policies and programs being implemented by the Government of Brazil relating to the need to improve control and surveillance of the use of lethal force by the police included the National Public Security and Citizenship (PRONASCI), which coupled traditional public-safety strategies with actions aimed at addressing the root causes of violence, and included training of police officers in use of modern non-lethal technologies and investigation methods.
- 21. **Mr. de Bustamante** (Observer for the European Union) asked for further elaboration on measures to neutralize factors driving excessive use of lethal force by public security agents. He would also like a more detailed explanation of the concept of sacrificing one life as a last resort to protect another life or lives. The terms on which investigations should be conducted and accountability measures enforced in order to uphold the principle of life should also be clarified. He asked for examples of the use of modern technology to ensure transparency and accountability in targeted killings.
- 22. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) asked how accountability for extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions could be enforced when States were unwilling or unable to do so and were not Parties to international accountability mechanisms such as the International Criminal Court, as was the case with, for example, Syria and Sri Lanka.
- 23. **Mr. Heyns** (Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions) said that the applicable legal framework in law enforcement was human rights law; in international armed conflict it was human rights law and international humanitarian law. Care must be taken when making the distinction that only humanitarian law applied during armed conflict.
- 24. All constitutions contained provisions stating that during armed conflict and in emergencies certain rights could be derogated from, implying that the other human rights remained in force. The complementarity of the two types of law must be recognized. In a law

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enforcement operation, the option of surrender should be actively offered.

- 25. A standard-setting 2006 Israeli Supreme Court decision had found that the possibility of using less than lethal force in a given situation required that option to be considered, and whether the particular circumstances required the use of lethal force without an offer of arrest as an option.
- 26. A battlefield situation was one thing, a situation involving a single person under surveillance another. The broader context had to be considered; clear and definitive lines could not be drawn. Underlying assumptions of law, international humanitarian law in particular, were being challenged by asymmetric warfare and terrorism, and an acceptable framework must to be established to avoid a situation of unlimited warfare in which borders were ignored and anyone could be a target.
- 27. With respect to Osama bin Laden, there had been mixed messages about whether surrender would have been accepted, and he appreciated the confirmation that the option would have been offered and accepted.
- 28. Impunity was an extremely important factor. Police awareness of the existence of a system of accountability affected their way of looking at the level of force used. It was important to avoid the use of elite units with operational independence, a police culture of silence, and a culture of silence between prosecutors and the police. The dangerous public rhetoric of war must be avoided; it could lead to a much lower level of protection of the right to life and promote impunity.
- 29. Prevention and accountability were the two components of protection of the right to life. Accountability entailed investigation, prosecution, and punishment, which could take various forms. Failure to take these steps made a State complicit in the crime committed. Visibility was important; it must be clear to the public that if the police crossed the line in respect to protection of right of to life, in order to restore that protection there would be visible accountability to the State. Use of cameras and similar recording technologies made it possible to determine exactly what took place during operations, ensuring accountability and thus preventing abuse.
- 30. With respect to States unable or unwilling to cooperate in ensuring accountability, there existed a range of potential avenues of action in cases of large-

- scale killings. Referral by the Security Council to the International Criminal Court and international investigation were two options. The underlying idea, once again, was accountability. If local investigation did not meet international standards, the international community had an obligation to pursue the matter.
- 31. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her country was committed to complying with all relevant national conventions, and national law prohibited all forms of extrajudicial execution. In the event of repeated mention of her country in statements by the representative of Liechtenstein, it would exercise its legitimate right of reply.
- 32. **Mr. Beyani** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons), introducing his report to the General Assembly (A/66/285), said that since assuming the mandate nearly one year ago, he had identified four thematic areas on which he intended to concentrate: promoting the ratification and implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention); the situation of IDPs living outside camp settings; women and internal displacement; and, finally, the subject of his current report, climate change and internal displacement.
- 33. Due to the high numbers of persons displaced by sudden onset natural disasters each year and the significant and growing problem of slow onset disasters such as desertification or drought due to climate change, preventing and addressing that displacement would be a major challenge. The need to put in place adaptation measures and to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation at all levels had been recognized by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). His report explored the links between climate change and internal displacement from a human rights perspective and in relation to other global trends and concerns, notably population growth, urban migration, and food, water and energy insecurity. The most serious effects of climate change, including displacement, were predicted to affect poor regions and countries disproportionately and populations already in vulnerable situations due to poverty and other factors, and would have significant consequences for the enjoyment of human rights and for human security. Therefore, timely and durable solutions must be found to prevent and address

climate-induced displacement, international and regional standards should be translated into national laws and policies and disaster risk reduction and management frameworks established.

- 34. He had undertaken two official country visits, to the Maldives and Kenya, the full reports of which would be submitted to the Human Rights Council in March 2012. During his visit to the Maldives, he had observed how the effects of climate change had already had an impact on the local population's enjoyment of many human rights; urgent protection and assistance were needed to find durable solutions to mitigate and adapt to those changes. He commended the authorities for drawing the attention of the international community to the issue and called on them to adopt the bills on disaster risk reduction and management. He urged them, with international support, to take the additional necessary steps to prepare for and address internal displacement as a result of climate change.
- 35. During his recent visit to Kenya, he had found that there was an urgent humanitarian need to address the dire living conditions and human rights of those displaced by post-election violence and by natural disasters and environmental conservation projects. Many had been in displacement for several years and faced the type of health, shelter and education challenges normally associated with the initial emergency phase. He commended the Government for having taken some important steps to address the issue, yet challenges remained. A comprehensive strategy on internal displacement must be adopted, with sufficient funding in place, including from international donors, to implement programmes. He encouraged the Government to adopt the draft policy on IDPs, to ratify the Kampala Convention, improve registration systems and ensure that those systems covered all categories of IDPs. A more consultative approach should be adopted to allow IDPs to make a voluntary and informed choice between integration, return or resettlement. He strongly encouraged the Government and civil society, with the support of the international community, to continue their peace-building and reconciliation efforts, which were essential to prevent future internal displacement and ensure respect for human rights.
- 36. **Mr. Faizal** (Maldives) said that the issues of displacement due to climate change and natural disasters were very important to the Maldives and were the primary focus of the Government's domestic and international agenda. The Government was grateful to

- the Special Rapporteur for his visit to the country in July 2011. The forthcoming report addressing the particular situation of low-lying island States, such as the Maldives, was eagerly anticipated.
- 37. In 2004, the tsunami had destroyed many islands of the Maldives and had affected two-thirds of the population, either though direct displacement or through overcrowding on less-affected islands. It had highlighted how unprepared the country was to respond to sudden disasters and the resulting issues of internally displaced persons. Full recovery from a tragedy of that magnitude was a long and difficult process, and the countries was still working to provide permanent homes for the 1,600 people still living in shelters.
- 38. Although the topic at hand was "internal" displacement, it was an international concern. As a small island nation, Maldives had limited resources and space, and as more people were displaced or more parts of the country were made uninhabitable due to the effects of slow-onset climate change, it would be unable to provide for many of the basic human rights such as adequate food and shelter. He therefore supported the call to establish a human rights-based framework focusing on the principles laid out in the report.
- 39. Maldives had endorsed a comprehensive Strategic National Action Plan that included disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation. A Disaster Management Centre had also been established, which was committed to taking proactive and timely measures to reduce the impact of disasters on the country's people and economy. The Government understood the need for legislation to implement the Action Plan, to ensure proper funding for the relevant support institutions, and to address the rights and needs of internally displaced persons. It would work diligently to have such a law in place as soon as possible.
- 40. **Mr. de Bustamante** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union welcomed the active engagement of the Special Rapporteur, in particular with regard to the mainstreaming of the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system, and enhancing cooperation with regional and international organizations.
- 41. Noting the engagement and close cooperation in the area of protecting internally displaced persons, as

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outlined in the report, he asked what gaps and challenges remained in the coordinated provision of protection for internally displaced persons by the United Nations, or other international organizations.

- 42. The report emphasized the role of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as a normative standard for the protection of persons displaced in a variety of contexts and in the different stages of displacement. He asked for more information on the extent to which States took the Guiding Principles into account in the development and implementation of national legislation and strategies to address internal displacement.
- 43. With regard to the theme of climate change and internal displacement, in particular the need for specific follow-up on the issue of internally displaced persons outside camps, he asked for more information about the progress achieved and any follow-up to his proposal to explore the gender dimensions of internal displacement, including by strengthening links with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant bodies. He would also like to know the Special Rapporteur's view on what would be the best way forward in elaborating alternative solutions and prevention strategies that would be especially effective for women and girls in the context of internal displacement.
- 44. He asked for more details about how the different adverse effects of sudden-onset and slow-onset events, such as climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation, might have different consequences on internal displacement and on migration, as two separate categories deserving of particular attention.
- 45. **Ms.** Shiolashvili (Georgia) said that the right of return for Georgia's internally displaced persons remained a focus of the Government's attention. However, much remained to be done. Despite numerous resolutions on the question, the displaced citizens had still not been allowed to return to Abkhazia. She invited the Special Rapporteur to visit Georgia to continue working on the issue.
- 46. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) welcomed the focus on the humanitarian consequences of climate change induced displacement. Liechtenstein agreed that comprehensive strategies were needed in order to adapt to such consequences. He asked how a human rights-

based approach could best be incorporated into adaptation and mitigation measures. He also enquired about the Special Rapporteur's collaboration with other United Nations entities.

- 47. **Mr. Beyani** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons) thanked the Government of the Maldives for its response and its indication of further cooperation. He stood ready to work with the national authorities to harness international support for the programmes that had been initiated and to find durable solutions.
- Responding to the points raised by the Observer for the European Union, he said that since the 2005 World Summit had recognized the Guiding Principles as the international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, a number of States had used them not only as a basis for policy and a framework for the whole question, but had also drafted legislation around them. He was currently working with a number of Governments to ensure that the spirit and framework of the Guiding Principles would be implemented at the national level. Nobody could predict where the next climate-related event would take place, so it was important to have preparedness, mitigation and emergency response measures ready. The one gap that remained to be filled was to strengthen the institutional framework. Coordination through Office for the Coordination the Humanitarian Affairs was being streamlined, but needed to be more effective at the country level.
- 49. With regard to the question of internally displaced persons outside camps, he noted that the issue had first been raised before the Standing Committee by his predecessor approximately two years ago. The approach at that time had been to find an agency to take the lead on the issue, but prevailing thought had been that existing activities would not permit that. Therefore he had begun with a thematic report to examine the best practices of the different agencies. The work that had been done in countries such as Colombia and Kenya would provide some best practices to work from. He hoped to build momentum for agencies to pursue the issue.
- 50. Turning to the questions of internally displaced women and follow-up, he said that he had decided to work with women's groups and agencies focused on women's issues. The first such body was the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination

against Women, with whom he had worked out a framework and priorities. He was also working with UN-Women and civil society. It would take time to research the problems and experiences of internally displaced women and how best to help them. The first stage was to have a small expert group prepare an agenda and outline the issues in a report, then the task should be mainstreamed through all the treaty bodies. It was important to share a policy framework through the High Commission for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. He also wanted to work more directly with appropriate Governments to ensure legislative measures were in place.

- 51. With regard to the comments about distinctions between the effects of climate change and natural disasters, he said that some natural disasters were caused by extreme climatic variations, which required the population to adapt. Displacement was indeed a factor of adaptation, along with emergency response. With regard to the slow-onset effects of climate change, more long-term planning and response were needed.
- 52. Discourse on climate change from the environmental and human rights perspectives had emerged separately, and thus common understanding should be built. Whether for the slow- or sudden-onset effects of climate change, mitigation, preparedness and response measures were needed. Human rights jurisprudence from around the world focused on the responsibilities of States towards vulnerable areas.
- 53. Responding to the representative of Georgia, he said that he was aware of the situation there and was working closely with representatives in Geneva on the issue. His mandate was open and would accept the invitation extended to visit in the coming few years.
- 54. **Mr. Meyer** (Norway) said that his Government strongly supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and the Guiding Principles, and had facilitated the 2011 resolution on internally displaced persons. The issue was complex and wide-ranging. The number of IDPs was rising and up to 90 per cent of the total had been displaced as a result of climate change. Climate change was an impact multiplier and accelerator. Both the slow-onset and rapid-onset impacts of climate change related to the question of displacement: flooding forced people to flee, while

desertification caused people to decide to move, making them likely to be classified as migrants rather than internally displaced persons. He therefore asked the Special Rapporteur where he drew the line between those categories.

- 55. **Ms. Ploder** (Austria) welcomed the focus on environmental factors and internally displaced persons from a human rights perspective. The human rights framework applied explicitly to natural disasters and the Guiding Principles were key in those instances. She asked the Special Rapporteur to give examples of how States were using the Guiding Principles in their climate change prevention, adaptation and mitigation strategies. She also asked for more details about how a framework for durable solutions could be helpful.
- 56. **Mr. Ledergerber** (Switzerland) welcomed the country-specific activities undertaken by the Special Rapporteur and said that he hoped the Special Rapporteur would be able to make more visits. The Kampala Declaration on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa would play a major role in the region, but still needed to be ratified by 15 States. He asked what support the international community could provide in order to facilitate the necessary ratifications.
- 57. **Ms. Ivanović** (Serbia) said that her country had many internally displaced persons from Kosovo who had been displaced for more than 12 years. Only 18,000 had returned thus far, less than 10 per cent of the overall number. The main concerns were security and property issues, and physical attacks on returnees. She asked how the Special Rapporteur intended to deal with protracted situations of internal displacement.
- 58. **Mr. Beyani** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons) said that the representative of Norway had raised an important point with regard to sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters as a result of environmental degradation. It was clear that both internal and cross-border movement were involved, but his mandate was not involved when movements took place across borders.
- 59. Environmental degradation might have to be examined as one of the causes of movement as part of adaptation to the slow-onset effects of climate change. If movement was an adaptation measure, a human rights framework would be needed, drawing on issues of preparedness, evacuations and health needs. Durable solutions would also be required. That might require a

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change in thinking, since it had previously been thought that slow-onset climate change led simply to migration, but the element of compulsion should be examined carefully.

- 60. Responding to the representative of Austria, he said that the Guiding Principles applied to all phases prevention as well as adaptation but when movement became necessary special measures were needed. Adaptation required an examination of the applicability of durable solutions i.e. whether return would be feasible. There needed to be a human rights framework of consultation with regard to resettlement or relocation, if there was a danger to life and safety. That only applied in cases of natural disaster, not slow-onset climate change.
- 61. Responding to the representative of Switzerland, he said that Sudan had accepted his request to visit and he had a standing invitation from both the north as well as what was now South Sudan. He was also in discussions with the Philippines and Pakistan and looked forward to receiving positive responses. With regard to support for ratification of the Kampala Declaration, it was useful to note the steps that had been taken by the African Union. The Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region was also taking measures to help with ratifications. He had been invited to prepare a declaration for the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, so perhaps the fifteenth ratification would follow.
- 62. Turning to the issues raised by the representative of Serbia, he noted the country's cooperation and said that he had looked at the question from the crisis onwards. Kosovo was not the only area involved; many people had also been displaced from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Particular attention had been paid to Kosovo and he would have a mission there in 2012. Part of the problem in that case revolved around the unresolved situation regarding the status of the territory. However, encouraging measures had been taken by the European Union.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

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