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Mr. President,

We are extremely concerned that Switzerland's attitude to housing and land rights will have a negative effect on respect for these rights worldwide. It is regrettable that a developed country with more than ample means to ensure all human rights has chosen not to approve the widely supported recommendation that it recognize the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights.

Last year, only 3 km from this room, eighty children and adults were evicted from the buildings known as "RHINO." This eviction occurred without warning, without a court order, and without any effort or measures to ensure respect for basic human rights. No alternative housing was provided, even on the night of the eviction itself, and the majority of residents remain homeless to this day. The Rhino itself featured in official brochures of emergency housing, so even those possibilities had been reduced by the eviction.

The former Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing stated that this eviction violated housing rights. Switzerland did not fully respond to Romania's question on cooperation with the Special Rapporteur during the interactive dialogue. As noted by Brazil, the federal structure of Switzerland cannot be used as an excuse to avoid respecting its human rights obligations. The politician who ordered the eviction has admitted that, had authorities obeyed the rule of law, the residents would still be in the buildings. Yet no investigation has been started. Perhaps the Swiss delegation could explain how it determines which persons it considers sufficiently 'human' to benefit from their human rights? Another community, the Tulipiers, is being threatened with a similarly illegal eviction today. And 4 eviction procedures will be begun, as they are every day in Geneva due to unchecked property speculation.

Switzerland, as the host country of this Council, bears a particular responsibility to ensure human rights.

We welcome Switzerland's support for NGOs to deliver general statements at this stage in the UPR procedure, but we would remind Switzerland that communication with civil society, and in particular with victims of human rights violations, should not be limited to 20 minutes every four years. Swiss authorities have repeatedly refused to meet with representatives of the victims of this violation. Indeed, as one of the residents, I am still waiting for the authorities' response to my letter. I am available to meet the Swiss delegation immediately after this session, for example.

Thank you.