

**U.S. Explanation of Position  
Human Rights Council Resolution on Housing and “Mega-Events”  
September 30, 2010**

The United States is pleased to join consensus on a resolution that addresses housing. We recognize that housing presents important issues related to human rights and is an essential element of human happiness and dignity. As President Obama said last year in Stockholm, “[A] just peace includes not only civil and political rights – it must encompass economic security and opportunity. For true peace is not just freedom from fear, but freedom from want.” Secretary Clinton amplified this sentiment, saying, “[H]uman development must also be part of our human rights agenda. Because basic levels of well-being – food, shelter, health, and education – and of public common goods like environmental sustainability, protection against pandemic disease, provisions for refugees – are necessary for people to exercise their rights, and because human development and democracy are mutually reinforcing.” The United States is dedicated to addressing housing issues. We strongly agree with the principle expressed by this resolution that in the context of hosting, or seeking to host, the events that here are called “mega-events,” large international events such as the Olympic Games, the World Cup, and International Expositions or World’s Fairs, it is important that hosting States respect housing-related rights. Such rights include rights of individuals with respect to nondiscrimination and participation in governmental processes.

The resolution includes references to “the right to adequate housing.” We read this phrase to be an abbreviation of the longer description in the resolution’s title, and thus consistent with the language in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Domestically, the United States has established numerous programs both at the state and federal levels to assist our citizens in accessing housing. On the international level, we look forward to continuing our work within the UN system and with countries around the world to improve housing and, more generally, to improve the lives and future for people everywhere.