



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/HRC/4/18/Add.1/Corr.1  
18 June 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Fourth session\*

Agenda item 2

**IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251  
OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”**

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a  
component of the right to an adequate standard of living,  
Mr. Miloon Kothari**

**Addendum**

**Summary of communications sent and replies received  
from Governments and other actors**

**Corrigendum**

**Paragraph 15, line 8**

*For Vietnamese Bridge read Preah Monivong Bridge*

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\* The present document, which carries the symbol number of the fourth session of the Human Rights Council, is scheduled for consideration by the fifth session of the Council.

## **Following paragraph 60**

*Insert a new paragraph to read:*

### **Communications received**

By letter dated 20 October 2006, the Government replied to the joint urgent appeal sent on 31 July 2006 by the Special Rapporteur with the independent expert on minority issues. The Government reported that the district of Fatih was a historical residential place with many samples of listed civil architecture. Natural disasters and lack of proper care threaten the cultural and historical objects in this area. Other structures in this area had fallen into disrepair and decline and the negative socio-economic effects of the increase in urbanization hindered the renewal of buildings. In the aftermath of the 1999 earthquake, the local authorities decided to take necessary measures for this area, which is located in an earthquake zone. In 2005, the entry into force of the “Law on the Protection by Renewal and Use through Survival of Historical and Cultural Immovable Objects which Are Eroded” (No. 5366) allowed municipalities to restore and reconstruct structures in the registered protected areas facing risk of extinction or erosion, in accordance with urban development; to preserve and renew historical and cultural immovable properties in such areas and to take appropriate measures against natural-disaster risks. In accordance with this law, several districts of Istanbul, including Fatih, were declared “renewal areas” by the Council of Ministers. Physical and socio-economic conditions of the people living in these areas have been taken into account and the overall objective of improving their living conditions has been defined, regardless of their ethnic identity. The place referred to as “Sulukule” comprises four blocks in Neslisah neighbourhood. The area of the project extends to cover 12 blocks, including Hatice Sultan neighbourhood. The boundaries of the renewal area have been delimited solely on the basis of the protection perimeter of the city wall, after an assessment of physical and social needs had been carried out. The project was finalized by a protocol signed on 8 June 2006 and revised on 13 July 2006 by the housing development administration, the municipality of Fatih and the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul. The Government reported that Law No. 5366 and its implementing regulations ensure public participation and consultation of local communities and rights-holders who live in the renewal areas, through regular meetings. During the renewal project for Hatice Sultan and Neslisah neighbourhoods, active participation and consultations with local rights-holders have been ensured. At all stages of the project, information has been shared with all the local rights-holders. The project was developed giving due consideration to the opinions expressed by rights-holders in consultative meetings held between June and July 2006. A new housing project has been also designed for the rights-holders and tenants living in Hatice Sultan and Neslisah neighbourhoods. Houses to be built in these areas will be primarily offered to the rights-holders. Tenants would also have the right to acquire social residences to be built in other parts of Istanbul. In July 2005, social research was carried out showing that all rights-holders had the title deeds and other documents necessary to prove their ownership. According to the result of the survey carried out over 348 plots of land, it was established that out of a total of 571 houses, 42 were being used for commercial purposes, and 529 for

residential purposes of which 303 were tenants. In November 2005, another survey of the buildings and their characteristics was completed. The preparation of alternative projects began at the end of October 2005 and it is expected to be completed in the near future. The prices of new houses to be built in these areas are affordable and the conditions for their payment are convenient. The prices of lands determined by the commission of experts for the purpose of deduction have been reflected on the prices of the new houses.

*Replace paragraph 61 by:*

**Observations**

The Special Rapporteur thanks the Government for its reply. He hopes that continued dialogue will result in a resolution of the human rights situation being faced by the affected communities. The Special Rapporteur continues to monitor the situation with interest.

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