**Scottish Human Rights Commission statement on adequate housing**

**UN Human Rights Council**

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Mr President,

The Scottish Human Rights Commission (hereafter SHRC) welcomes the report from the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing.

SHRC wishes to provide information on the work it is carrying out in Scotland, particularly on the development and implementation of Scotland’s National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP), which acts as a distinctive and effective tool for realising all human rights in Scotland, including the right to an adequate standard of living.

One of the agreed priority actions arising from SNAP is to empowering people experiencing poor housing conditions across Scotland. Since summer 2015, SHRC has been working in partnership with Edinburgh Tenants’ Federation and ‘Participation and the Practice of Rights’ to support residents of social housing to use economic, social and cultural rights to challenge poor housing conditions in Leith, Edinburgh. This project creates an opportunity for people living in the area to hold public authorities to account where their rights, for example to an adequate standard of living, are not being upheld. Residents have undertaken participatory action research to establish the issues faced by both the community and individual householders, which include damp, structural problems, poor drainage and in addition, a lack of opportunities to participate in and direct change.

Over the next few weeks and months, SHRC will support residents to identify priorities for improvements and set human rights-based indicators upon which public authorities must act. Alongside the work undertaken by residents, SHRC will be providing capacity building support to public authorities concerned to enable them to design and deliver services in a way that respects, protects and fulfils the human rights of people who use their services. The concepts of building improved and meaningful participation as well as enhanced accountability are pivotal to our work.

Thank you.