

Mr. Chairman, these are only some of the situations which seem, in my government's view, to warrant concern on the part of this Commission. As I have already noted, the global incidence of human rights violations is regrettably too widespread to permit a brief catalogue. A significant response of the Commission to this grim situation has been the adoption of a thematic approach to violations. Three examples, included under this agenda item, require special mention.

In commending Mr. Amos Wako for his professional report on Summary or Arbitrary Executions, we also wish to join him in urging that the international community continue to monitor this question and seek to devise means of effective intervention in urgent situations. While we can take no solace in Mr. Wako's conclusion that there has been no respite in the number of executions, we firmly believe that his continued efforts must make a difference over the long run.

Mr. Chairman, recent experience has brought a recognition by this body and by the General Assembly that the international community has the duty to try to prevent mass displacements of populations with their attendant human suffering. My delegation wishes to register its strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to develop administrative measures which may assist in averting such crises. We hope that the Commission this year will again endorse this effort.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is most encouraged that the Working Group on the Right and Responsibility to Promote Human Rights has this year begun its work with a view to eventually preparing a draft declaration on this important question. Standard-setting in international human rights has matured but it is clear that the challenge of implementing universally acknowledged principles of human rights offers much scope for creative action on the part of the United Nations. This Working Group is charged with identifying those specific rights and responsibilities which must be respected and acted upon if human rights in general are to be effectively protected and enhanced. As such, it offers a significant opportunity to focus the attention of the United Nations and the international community on the question of what must be done to give real and universal effect to the aspirations reflected in the International Bill of Human Rights.