



Human Rights Council
“The Position of Roma in Southeastern Europe”

BIMUN 2010 session, Date: 21/03/2010

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE POSITION OF ROMA IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

The Human Rights Council,

Alarmed by the ongoing social and economic difficulties faced by Roma people in Southeastern Europe,

Deeply concerned by the discriminatory practice against the Roma population, both that of public (educational, health, social) institutions and that of the society as a whole,

Affirming the principles proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Art. 1 and Art. 2 by which “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind”,

Recognizing the praiseworthy initiative undertaken by the countries participants of The Decade of Roma Inclusion Programme”,

Regretting, however, that the goals set forth within this initiative have not yet been fully accomplished due to the socioeconomic difficulties of the countries of Southeastern Europe,

Strongly believing that the issue of Roma people in Southeastern Europe concerns the international community as a whole,

Emphasizing the urgent need for concrete remedy and constructive action as to the problem of discrimination and poverty of Roma people,

Recognizing the fact that, it being a problem on the European soil, the role of the countries of the European continent regarding Roma is crucial,

1. *Recommends* the establishment of the Subcommittee for the Improvement of the Position of Roma in Southeastern Europe, within the already existing UN Committee against Racial Discrimination;
2. *Suggests* that the efforts of single Southeastern European states be further motivated by financial support provided by the United Nations and possibly other relevant organizations and funds;
3. *Declares* that personnel and technical equipment will be provided to Southeastern European countries for enabling the Roma people to obtain valid documents in order for them to be able to invoke their rights as soon as possible;

4. *Emphasizes* that one part of the new body will be committed exclusively to gathering of more detailed and more accurate statistics on the Roma population;
5. *Regrets* that the past Roma action plans have been insufficiently monitored by the United Nations bodies;
6. *Invites* the experts on minority rights to participate in the work of this newly established Subcommittee by submitting biannual reports to the UN authorities, proposing at the same time that one third of the experts be representatives of the Southeastern European countries, one third representatives of Roma communities and civil rights movements, and one third United Nations experts;
7. *Trusts* that adequate improvement of the position of Roma will only be achieved if, on the one hand, the countries of the region are legally bound by the set out goals, and on the other hand the UN member states are bound by the obligation undertaken;
8. *Further recommends* that, prior to the establishment of this body, a legally binding Convention be signed by Southeastern countries willing to receive the financial support offered by the international community;
9. *Proposes* that the funds for the recommended project be provided for the initial trial period of 5 years after which, if estimated that the projects are not being implemented appropriately/are being implanted successfully, financial support ought to be decreased/increased;
10. *Recommends* that the campaign of self-determination for Roma people and the collecting of statistics should be financed by the UN, and in order to provide sustainability of the initiative, the SEE Countries, as the focal point of this issue, should be required to prove to the HRC that they are able to gather resources and implement necessary solution for the betterment of the Roma minority in Southeastern Europe;
11. *Suggests* that funding be provided by the Subcommittee and periodically (for each year) to the governments of the Southeastern European countries as well as to the non-governmental organizations that will have the right to apply for projects directly to the Subcommittee;
12. *Proposes* that the newly formed Subcommittee should ensure that the concrete measures are taken as follows:
 - a. According to education: Placement into appropriate classrooms based on educational history, not age or ethnicity, and complete integration in schools; registered children should attend schools until the legal age;
 - b. According to housing: No discrimination of housing and no continual placement into single and segregated areas in society;
 - c. According to employment: offering tax break for companies who hire and provide equal pay and benefits for Roma minority and suggesting positions for jobs including the Roma minority;
 - d. According to political representation: advocating for proportional representation according to the population of the Roma minority in all positions of government sectors by the end of The Decade of Roma Inclusion in 2015;
13. *Declares* its commitment to increase attention to the empowerment of Roma women, especially in the fields of primary school education and sex education;
14. *Recommends* that the Subcommittee start operating as soon as this proposal is adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.