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THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

IMADR Oral Statement, Human Rights Council 16th Session

Item 3: General Debate

11 March 2011

Mr. President,

We welcome the Human Rights Council's quick response to the situation in Libya. Although the situation in Libya continues and due attention and actions remain to be taken there, the Council thus far has demonstrated its potential. IMADR would like to see this potential applied to addressing further chronic and urgent situations around the world.

Mr. President

We would like to draw the attention of the Council to the suffering of over 260 million people throughout the world, such as Dalits in South Asia, and the Buraku community in Japan, who are affected by discrimination based on work and descent. We welcome the efforts by the Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights who developed the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent. Despite that this is a long standing issue and that in its 11th session the Council accepted the report A/HRC/11/CRP.3 including the Principles and Guidelines, these Principles and Guidelines have not been recognized as a UN standard. We reiterate our call for the prompt adoption of these Principles and Guidelines as a UN standard. We would like to invite everyone to our side event on discrimination based on Work and Descent to be held on the 16 March from 3-5 in room XXIII (23) that will focus on the implementation and realization of human rights standards for all.

Mr. President

We are very concerned with the intolerance and the discrimination against Roma that persists not solely a European problem, but extends to other regions. Roma living in different countries, and under different circumstances experience diverse issues and so it cannot be expected that a single solution for them can be found. We would therefore like to call on the Council to recognize the diversity within this community and the various conditions experienced by the local Roma as a community and also as individuals, including those subject to multiple discrimination. When the High Commissioner introduced her annual report she urged States to use the full range of regional legal and financial instruments to improve the enjoyment of all human rights of Roma people. Further we request that the Council encourage actors at the local, national and regional levels to fully implement existing projects and programs, while exploring any other possible measures in consultation with the community and individuals concerned. In this context we also recommend that Council members make full use of General Recommendation # 32 of the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination that specifies the meaning and scope of special measures that should utilize in this regard.

Thank you Mr. President

IMADR is an NGO in consultative status (Special) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations