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THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

IMADR Oral Statement: 20th Session of the Human Rights Council**Item 9: Interactive Dialogue with the SR on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

3 July, 2012

Thank you Madame President,

IMADR welcomes the reports of the Special Rapporteur, his thorough analysis and recommendations. We fully support his victim-centred approach and look forward to contributing to his work in the most effective way. We also appreciate Special Rapporteur's intention to further clarify preventive measures and highlight good practices.

We also share the concern over the extremism and incitement to racial hatred and violence, whereas vulnerable groups such as minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are targeted. Recognising the importance of the Article 4 of ICERD and Articles 19 and 20 of ICCPR, we would like to emphasise that, as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination points out, prohibition of the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred can be compatible with the protection of the right to freedom of expression and opinion. However, genuine will and efforts by States are required, and their effective cooperation with the relevant stakeholders including Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and civil society actors. Usage of Internet as a counter and preventive measures is a possibility which we can and should explore jointly.

We also express our grave concern over restrictive and intolerant immigration and refugee laws that make the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance more and more vulnerable to various violations of their Human Rights. We would like to ask Special Rapporteur whether he has any recommendation in this regard.

As Special Rapporteur states, the issue of racism and racial discrimination is complex, often interlinked with other issues such as poverty and gender. Discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity is another cross-cutting issue. We wonder whether intersection of these cross-cutting issues could be a topic of an in-depth thematic study by Special Rapporteur in the future.

We also want to ask Special Rapporteur how he sees the possibility of joint action with other Special Procedures in order to address deep-rooted cross cutting issues such as discrimination based on work and descent including caste based discrimination in more comprehensive way.

Thank you Madame President.

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