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**THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM****IMADR Oral Statement, Human Rights Council 17<sup>th</sup> Session  
Item 9 Interactive Dialogue with SR Racism**

14 June, 2011

Thank you Mr. President,

IMADR welcomes the report of Special Rapporteur and his thorough analysis and recommendations.

Concerning the situation of Roma, we also welcome the efforts made at regional level in Europe. However, as Special Rapporteur indicates, there is still persisting and wide spread discrimination against Roma in different countries where Roma groups and individuals are facing various issues on the ground. While regional initiatives can play a role in creating solutions, each State has its own responsibility to take concrete actions and create tangible outcomes in order to eliminate discrimination against Roma and protect their human rights in the society. Effective involvement of affected communities must be ensured too.

Furthermore, one of the emergent issues to be addressed is racial violence, hate speech and hate crimes against Roma and incitement thereto. Unfortunately we are observing negative trends in Europe. There are more and more right extremist and nationalist groups targeting at Roma. The situation is more alarming in some countries, where even public officials and politicians are using anti-Roma rhetoric and making racial statements. The issue is quite serious and urgent, and we would like to ask Special Rapporteur to suggest how State and non-State actors including affected community should deal with this.

In Hungary, for example, there have been several incidents of racist attacks and killings of Roma since 2008; people including children have been harassed and murdered, property destroyed. The tension between Roma and non-Roma population in Gyöngyöspata is still high. While noting measures taken by the State, more comprehensive, active and firm approach is necessary to stop escalation of the situation, address root causes, prevent and eliminate racial violence and create peaceful co-existence in the society. In this context we welcome the recent visit of Special Rapporteur to the country and look forward to his report. We would also appreciate any suggestions he can make now.

Regarding discrimination based on work and descent, we highly appreciate the continuing efforts of Special Rapporteur to address this issue and would like to express our sincere support. At last, we also urge the government of Sri Lanka to accept the request of Special Rapporteur to visit the country in order for him to study the racial dimension of the conflict and to facilitate the reconciliation and sustainable peace building.

Thank you Mr. President