



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission for Social Development

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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and  
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:**

**Priority Theme: Socially just transition towards sustainable  
development: the role of digital technologies on social  
development and well-being of all.**

### **Statement submitted by World Roma Federation Inc, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

We are World Roma Federation Inc. (WRF) In Special Consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC. This is a joint statement with International Assembly of Roma (IAR), a member organization who is registered with the UN DESA and has a pending application for consultative status.

We, the members of this organization, have assembled to promote and encourage the interests, rights, and prosperity of the Roma people of the world, as a framework to encourage integration, sustainability, development, and autonomy.

With this Agenda our plan of action is to promote all objectives, dialogue, and approaches with the capacity to meet the sustainable development needs of the marginalized Roma Communities of Europe.

This does not limit any integral measures laid out by the EU in terms of functionality of inhibitors in accordance with state mandated norms, as it meets budgetary obligations in the following areas job growth, education, health services, migration, etc.

This measure is to set parameters and deliverables on a local and statewide level within Europe with the capacity to eradicate social division, poverty, homelessness, disparity, injustices and bias from its frameworks. Engaging in impromptu dialogue between heads of states, the EU, Commission, other govt agencies with engagement of civil society and community NGO organizations, such as WRF is the only outcome viable to meet communal deliverables within marginalized communities as the Roma.

We advocate for the development of protocols that encourage constructive dialogue, indorses a fairer future that includes the Roma in every aspects of European societal constructs including legislative and sustainable development resolutions.

We advance the development of legislature for any initiative that highlights the importance of a whole-of-society human rights centered approach to deliver well-resourced health and social protection systems that respond to all ages.

We emphasize upon the critical need for universal provision of the right to health services and social protection, fairer tax and financing, as well as long-term sustainable development, as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals.

We promote any edict or mandate that promotes the “No One Left Behind,” initiative! With this we announce our full-scale objectives of our International Platform towards Roma integration, focusing on sustainable development, to social disparities in Health Services, Education, Housing, and Employment.

The goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 30 years in areas of critical importance on a global initiative for all Roma peoples.

We the World Roma Federation and the International Assembly of Roma are submitting this statement on behalf of the Roma people around the globe with hopes to have our voices heard as a whole.

As you are aware the Roma face many issues and injustices in many European countries.

According to Euro News “As many as six million Roma live in the bloc, where the European Commission said 41% experienced discrimination over the past five years and where 85% of Roma children are at risk of poverty compared to 20% of children overall in the EU.

Under the plan announced on by the commission, EU nations will have to submit national strategies by September 2021 and the Commission will monitor progress

toward the 2030 targets, which centre on reducing discrimination, improving jobs access for Roma, reducing poverty and improving the quality of education for Roma children.

The EU Roma strategic framework sets out a number of targets on minimum progress to be achieved by 2030 and provides guidance to EU Member States on how to do this.”

Simply put, there is no political will to push for the reforms that need to take place.

Unfortunately, this is proven to fail and is unacceptable. Who remembers “Decade of Roma Inclusion” signed by multiple countries? What has changed or is different from the current 10-year plan?

The fact is that this approach won’t work unless other policies are implemented and our (The Roma) voices are heard and we are consulted before finalizing such plans. With all due respect, we are not taken seriously enough for this plan to work. And the NGOs who do have opportunities to be heard on these matters are ran by mostly Non-Roma boards and have a few members who happen to have Roma ancestry. We deserve more, we deserve better and we deserve to be included in policy making.

Roma are not just an Ethnic group or minority; we are first and foremost human and we are a Stateless Nation. We deserve to be recognized as such. Change can only happen if we are shown more respect. Social development and the well-being of Roma must be a priority for Governments on a state level first.

Our organization in coordination with our member organizations in Europe are prepared to bring solutions to the table that if implemented by countries, can make history!

Dear readers, we need your help! We cannot do this alone! In order for us to reach our goals and objectives, we must have the support of Governments and intergovernmental organizations.

Our vision first perfectly with the theme “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”.

In order for us to be taken seriously and change to occur, we must:

1. Be officially recognized as a Stateless Nation.
2. Form a Parliamentary system with all Roma members. (This does not mean we are claiming independence from our respective countries of residence. We simply need official representation)
3. Establish a department of foreign relations and appoint members in each country to officially represent us and run a primary cultural complex similar to an Embassy in each country’s capital that would have multiple offices and functions.

If these 3 actions would be taken, the potentials are endless! We can:

- Develop and implement new policies with the EU and other Governments.
- Implement our strategies that would effectively fight poverty, dehumanization and discrimination.
- Create new jobs and contribute to the economic development.
- Implement a transitional housing program and eliminate “Roma Ghettos”.

- Provide Education to our children.
- Advocate for proper health care.
- And so much more!

In order for us to be included in society and enjoy our human rights, we must first be acknowledged by the world as a Stateless Nation. For example, let's compare our situation to the Kurdish Nation.

They currently are recognized as a Stateless Nation, have a Parliamentary system, have foreign relationships and are properly represented around the world.

In closing, we invite you to join us and help us lobby for this positive change.

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