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CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Douzième session  
Point 3 de l'ordre du jour

**PROMOTION ET PROTECTION DE TOUS LES DROITS DE L'HOMME,  
CIVILS, POLITIQUES, ÉCONOMIQUES, SOCIAUX ET CULTURELS,  
Y COMPRIS LE DROIT AU DÉVELOPPEMENT**

**Note verbale datée du 27 septembre 2009, adressée au Haut-Commissariat  
des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente  
de la République de Serbie**

La Mission permanente de la République de Serbie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme et au secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de leur faire tenir ci-joint des informations sur les droits des Roms, en particulier sur les solutions qui ont été trouvées concernant la question du logement, qui avait été soulevée au cours du dialogue avec la Haut-Commissaire.

La Mission permanente de la République de Serbie demande au secrétariat du Conseil de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente note verbale et de son annexe\* en tant que document de la douzième session.

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\* La présente lettre est distribuée dans toutes les langues officielles. L'annexe à la lettre est distribuée telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale seulement.

**Annexe**

**Ministry for Human and Minority Rights**

**Republic of Serbia**

**I N F O R M A T I O N**

**Measures undertaken for adequate housing of Roma**

The Republic of Serbia is integrated in the socio-economic processes in Central and South East Europe as well as the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, and it is a signatory to the Declaration of the Decade of Roma. Until June of this year it presided over the Decade and the priorities accorded by it during that period were: legalising Roma settlements; preventing discrimination in the education of Roma children; building a system of evaluation and monitoring; and an active participation in developing a Europe-wide Roma policy. On 9 April 2009, the Government adopted an important document, the Strategy for Improving the Situation of Roma and an operative Plan of Action for the Strategy's implementation. This proves that the state is systematically included in addressing and improving the situation of the Roma community, in particular in those areas where the Roma population is the most vulnerable.

Belgrade City, which is faced with a huge problem of substandard informal settlements that emerged over the last twenty or so years as a result of the wars waged in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, approved a document entitled "Amendments to the Plan of Action on Resettling Informal Settlements in Greater Belgrade Area in 2009". This PoA served as the basis for resettling the most notorious substandard informal settlement under Gazelle Bridge. According to some analysis previously made, the residents of this informal settlement were split in two groups: Group A, which consisted of 114 resident Roma families and Roma displaced from Kosovo and Metohija; and Group B, consisting of 64 families in total of the Roma who were mainly resident in southern Serbia.

The new concept of resettling these families implies that they should be accepted by all municipalities or boroughs of Belgrade City, except for its boroughs of Stari Grad, Vracar, Novi Beograd and Savski Venac, to prevent the ghetto-like settlements and concentration of poverty in one place. The housing provided to them consists of containers having the basic infrastructure such as water, sanitation and a bathroom.

Group B were moved back to their places of residence and they were initially assisted in integrating into their original environments. Towns to which these families were returned are Bojnik, Surdulica, Vranje, Leskovac, Lebane, Merosina, Prokuplje and Kovin.

The same concept will be used to resettle also the Belville informal settlement as well as five or six other smaller slums.

The Republic of Serbia is interested and determined to implement its strategic documents and is seriously working to promote the condition of this most vulnerable population group in Serbia, in which assistance by the international community is both necessary and welcome.

Belgrade, 16 September 2009

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