

**Centre for Roma Initiative
HDIM**

Working session 6: Roma, Sinti and in particular empowerment of Roma women

Thursday, 27 of September 2012

Adoption of national Action Plan (NAP) for Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen's

My name is Fana Delija, I am speaking on behalf Centre for Roma Initiative from Niksic, Montenegro.

From April 2011, for the first time, women from Roma and Egyptian community have had the opportunity to create and develop Draft National Action Plan (NAP) for Roma and Egyptian women. The final version of NAP has been agreed on the round table on 30th May 2012, which was attended by representatives of the relevant institutions – Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Department for gender Equality, as well as representatives of the international organizations and NGO sector. However National Action Plan for Roma women is still not adopted by Government of Montenegro.

National Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian women in Montenegro for period 2012 – 2016 presents developing document for implementation of gender equality policy, as well as for improvement of general living conditions and faster inclusion of Roma and Egyptian women in all segments of social life, while preserving their own cultural uniqueness and specificity. The NAP is based on international and domestic legal sources, strategies and other developing documents that address the issue of gender equality.

. Specific problems of these women are not sufficiently recognized in two documents that Montenegro has adopted as its official policy: Roma Decade and Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Roma and Egyptian Population in Montenegro 2012 – 2016.

Due to all the mentioned above, we urge Montenegrin Government to adopt the National Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian Women for period 2012 – 2016 as Annex to Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Roma and Egyptian Population in Montenegro 2012 – 2016 or as integral of the Action Plan for achievement of gender equality 2013-2017.

Thank you for your attention.