

**Romania's Review in the Working Group**  
**Thursday 15 May 2008, Morning 9am-12pm**  
**Overview of the Working Group Session**  
**Report by Tiffany Henderson**

**The Troika**

The troika was composed of representatives from Angola, Canada and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The three of them took the floor during the interactive dialogue.

**Presentation by Romania**

*Speaking Time:* 18 minutes

**Recognition of problems and/or concerns:** The delegation of Romania listed in particular the situation of Roman minority and persistent discrimination as particular concern; the need to combat discrimination; increasing the independence of the judiciary and law enforcement officials; Gender Equality and in particular the vulnerability of women in the labor market; multiple discrimination of Roman Women; Victims of domestic violence; Rights of the Child including large numbers of children in state-run institutions that are under-funded and poorly staffed; Abandoned children; Conditions in detention facilities; Mental health; persons suffering from HIV/AIDS; high rates of maternal mortality;

**Achievements made:** Increased role of civil society; focus of government on striking a balance ; between civil and political rights and ensuring economic, social and cultural rights; adoption of measures to **strengthen the independence of the judiciary** such as the 2005-2007 Strategy; **combating discrimination** through a legal and institutional framework particularly the National Council for Combating Discrimination; **National Human Rights** Institutions in the form of judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative institutions; The 2001 **Strategy for the Improvement of Roma Situation** and the interaction between the government and non-government in it's implementation; free access to housing for Roma Minorities; desegregation of Roma in schools; Adoption of the **National Strategy for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2006-2009)**; implementation of the recommendations of CEDAW per 2006 Treaty-Body Report; combating domestic violence and violence against women per government program for 2006; budgetary planning including funding for victims of domestic violence; establishment of the **National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (including the 2008-2012 Strategy)**; legislative measures to address the **penitentiary system**; creation of the **National Centre for Mental Health**; establishment of the **National Program for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment**;

**Other issues:** Many children are abandoned in Romania as their parents seek job opportunities abroad, leading to children seeking residency in state institutions or with relatives; they delegation commented on the need to eliminate legislative and institutional obstacles to better accelerate the application of human rights;

**Answers to written questions:** *Rights of the Roma Minority* (Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, United Kingdom); *Situation of Women in the labor market and political life* (Denmark); *Mental health care* (Denmark, United Kingdom); *situation in detention centers* (Ireland, Sweden); *Prevalence of HIV/AIDS* (Ireland); *Implementation of laws* (Netherlands); *Civil society participation in the national report* (United Kingdom); *Maternal mortality* (United Kingdom)

**Interactive Dialogue:**

Number of countries that took the floor

**38 States** took the floor during the interactive dialogue: **24 Member-States of the Human Rights Council** (*Slovenia, China, Azerbaijan, Canada, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Italy, Angola, France, Germany, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Senegal, Qatar, Bangladesh, Guatemala, the Philippines, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Japan, the Netherlands, Russian Federation, Brazil, Jordan, Ukraine, Egypt*) and **14 Non-Member States** (*Algeria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Morocco, Australia, Tunisia, United States of America, Denmark, Ireland, Sudan, Turkey, Finland, Argentina, Chile*).

### Questions/Issues raised

**Freedom of Expression** – Morocco; **National Action Plan** – Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt (Roma); **Freedom of Religion** – Slovenia, Azerbaijan; **Gender Perspective** – Slovenia (integration on the elaboration and in the outcome of UPR process); **Implementation** – Ukraine, Brazil, The Netherlands, Japan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Qatar (recommendations), Italy (treaty body reporting), Senegal (Share Experiences), China (Strategy for Equal Opportunity for Men and Women); **Rights of the Child** – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Sudan, Azerbaijan (Special answering to proposed visit by the Rapporteur on Right to Education and Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children), Mexico (Trafficking of Children); **Property Restitution**- United States of America, Canada; **Corruption** – Canada; **Roma People** –Jordan, Brazil, Japan, Germany, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Angola; **Mental Health** – United Kingdom; **Enforced Disappearances** – France (signing of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances); **Independence of the Judiciary** – Republic of Korea; **Discrimination** – Senegal, Turkey, Colombia ; **Rights of Women** – Ukraine, Brazil, Chile, Bangladesh (Discrimination), Turkey (Domestic Violence); **HIV/AIDS** – Czech Republic, Guatemala; **Trafficking** – Philippines, Japan, Australia, Azerbaijan (trafficking of women and children); **National Human Rights Institution** - Australia

### Recommendations

#### **Freedom of Religion**

- Harmonize legislation to ensure international standards applied (**Slovenia**)
- Reassess measures to ensure principles of freedom of religion and belief are implemented (**Denmark**)
- Authorities should be more proactive in preventing and punishing religious intolerance which according to reports of Special Rapporteur's often goes unpunished (**Denmark**)

#### **Gender Perspective**

- Ensure perspective integrated into the follow-up process of the UPR (**Slovenia**)

#### **Rights of Children**

- Ensure the protection of children including vulnerable children (**Tunisia**)
- Better guarantee the Rights of the Child (**France**)
- Measures to address health issues of street children (**Republic of Korea**)
- Combat the prevalence of HIV/AIDS amongst children through providing information and awareness (**Ireland**)
- Implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, recommendations by CEDAW and CRC (**Mexico**)
- Take effective steps to ensure the implementation of the CRC and ILO Conventions 138 and 182 (**Russian Federation**)

#### **Right to Property**

- Property Restitution: government should work with the Romanian Orthodox Church to improve the implementation of the law concerning property restitution (**United States of America**)
- Speedier implementation of the Property Restitution Law (**Canada**)

#### **Corruption**

- Develop a country-wide anti-corruption strategy with a focus on implementation ( **Canada**)
- Look at high-level corruption, particularly in the judiciary (**Canada**)
- Independence of judiciary most essential to protect the rights and freedom of people (**Republic of Korea**)

#### **Discrimination**

- Additional Measures should be taken to combat discrimination against minorities: Roma people, sexual minorities and those living with HIV/AIDS (**Canada**)
- Measures to combat discrimination with HIV/AIDS patients (**France**)
- Combat discrimination against those with disabilities via improved access to social and health measures (**Ireland**)
- Enhance measures to ensure persons suffering from HIV/AIDS have equal access to resources (**Philippines**)
- Ratify the Convention on Persons with Disabilities (**Mexico**)

#### **Trafficking of Persons**

- Combat Human Trafficking via stronger measures and create a system of witness protection in cases of trafficking (**Canada**)

#### **Implementation**

- Steps to ensure relevant domestic legislation is in conformity with their international obligations (**United Kingdom**)
- Implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health (**Guatemala**)
- Combat health problems through implementing training in health sectors and disseminating an awareness campaign.

#### **Mental Health**

- Consider urgently improving the conditions of patients in psychiatric wards (**United Kingdom**)
- Take further measures to ensure adequate provision of mental healthcare (**Ireland**)

#### **Maternal Mortality**

- Measures to improve the sexual and reproductive health of marginalized groups (**United Kingdom**)

#### **Rights of Women**

- Combat violence against women through disseminating information and protection of victims (**France**)
- Adopt measures to eliminate domestic violence against women (**Italy**)
- Endorse the recommendations of CEDAW and there should be further education on human rights to officials, particularly women's rights (**Guatemala**)

#### **Roma People**

- Government should better integrate Roma peoples into the areas of housing, health and education (**France**)
- Prevent Roma minorities being abused by police and officials (**Denmark**)
- Continue to take action to ensure the rights of Roma people (**Ireland**)
- Promote the rights of Roma people (**Philippines**)
- Eliminate discrimination of the Roma people (**The Netherlands, Brazil**)

#### **Detention Centers**

- Measures to combat abuse of prisoners by prison authorities as stated by the Special Rapporteur on Torture (**Denmark**)
- Take measure to improve the conditions of detention centers (**Ireland, Turkey**)

#### **Human Rights Education**

- Develop a national strategy for human rights education in the government including training of teachers and increasing the practice of human rights in the school community (**Italy**)

#### **Sexual orientation**

- Measures to investigate attacks on peaceful gay and lesbian activists in the annual 'gay-fest' (**Finland**)
- Strengthen the protection to the right to choice of sexuality by ensuring sexual minorities can freely exercise this right without being discriminated (**Finland**)

#### **Corporal Punishment**

- Measures to eliminate corporal punishment (**Russian Federation**)

#### **Answers provided by the delegation**

**National Plan of Action** (Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt); **Women's rights** (Slovenia, Ukraine, Brazil, Chile, France, Italy, Guatemala, Bangladesh (Discrimination), Turkey (Domestic Violence)); **Roma People** (France, Denmark, Ireland, Philippines, The Netherlands, Jordan, Brazil, Japan, Germany, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Angola); **Police use of force against Roma** (Denmark and Czech Republic); **National Council for Combating Discrimination** (Senegal, Turkey, Columbia); **Children's Rights** (Bosnia Herzegovina, Turkey, Sudan, Tunisia, France, Republic of Korea); **Corporal Punishment** (Russian Federation); **Property Restitution** (United States of America, Canada); **Freedom of Religion** (Slovenia, Denmark); **Corruption** (Canada, Republic of Korea); **Independence of the judiciary** (Republic of Korea); **Youth Funds** (UK); **Legislative measures for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (Japan); **Trafficking** (Philippines, Japan, Australia, Canada); **National Strategy Against Discrimination** (Czech Republic, Columbia); **Sexual orientation** (Finland); **Enforced Disappearances** (France); **Ratify the Convention on Persons with Disabilities** (Mexico); **Domestic legislation is in conformity with their international obligations** (United Kingdom); **Mental Health (delegation stated this was covered in their opening address)** (United Kingdom, Ireland); **Detention Centers** (Denmark, Ireland, Turkey);

#### **Issues for follow-up**

The delegation of Romania stated that it was **committed to implementing the conclusions and outcomes of the review**; Romania also committed itself to producing its **report to the Committee Against Torture (CAT) before** the end of this year (2008); to soon **ratify the Convention Against Torture** pending the approval by Parliament; to deliver the report to the **Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)** before the end of the eight session of the Human Rights Council; Committed itself to **signing the Convention on the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearances**; committed to **providing more details on issues requiring elaboration by the plenary meeting of the HRC in June 2008; recommendations heard will be considered** and replies will be given before the next meeting of the HRC in June; **will abide by their international commitments** in order to best identify and apply the conclusions emerging from the UPR.

#### **States that made solely welcoming statements**

No states made solely welcoming statements during the interactive dialogue with the delegation of Romania.

#### **Human Rights mentioned in the NGOs reports but not raised during the review**

*Right to privacy, Right to work, Secret detention centres/renditions, Access to Water, Juvenile justice, Hungarian minority.*

#### **Human Rights mentioned during the review but on which the delegation did not give a response**

**Implementation** (Ukraine, Brazil, The Netherlands, Japan, Bosnia and Herzegovina); **Treaty Body Recommendations** (Qatar); **Treaty Body Reporting** (Italy); **Share experiences** (Senegal); **Strategy for the equal opportunity for men and women** (China); Visits by **Special Rapporteur on Right to Education and Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children** (Azerbaijan, Mexico); **HIV/AIDS** (Czech Republic, Guatemala); **National Human Rights**

**Institution** (Australia); **Discrimination** (Canada, Ireland, France, Guatemala, Ireland); **Sexual and reproductive health of marginalized groups** (United Kingdom); **Human Rights Education** (Italy)

**Speaking time**

Overall duration of the review: *2 hours and 45 minutes.*

Of the State under Review:

During its opening statement: *34 minutes*

Overall speaking time employed to respond to their States' questions during the interactive dialogue: *25 minutes*

Concluding remarks: *5 minutes*

*Romania went over their allocated time by 5 minutes.*

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