



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

on The Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
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Working Session 16 - Humanitarian issues and other commitments II

Mr./Ms. Chairperson,

Allow me first to align with the EU statement and express Slovenia's full commitment to implementing the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti.

To advance the social and economic inclusion of Roma, Slovenia adopted a systemic act by which it stipulated the obligation by the State and self-governing local communities to ensure the special rights of the Roma community, including their financing. The overall national program (for the period 2010–2015) defines concrete measures by which Slovenia aims to improve living conditions, education, employment and health as well as to promote the Roma culture and traditions.

We deem the active involvement of the Roma communities themselves to be of essential importance for the improvement of their living conditions, and have in this regard developed some good practices. Let me mention one: In cooperation with different partners, we developed the Roma Educational Incubators, which are a form of comprehensive educational programs conducted in Roma settlements, and aimed for Roma children, youth and their parents.

Today's discussion, and in particular the interventions by the civil society representatives, including from the Roma communities, show that a lot of work needs to be done by the OSCE States to implement the Action Plan.

In this regard, we are grateful for the valuable assistance provided to the States by the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities and of the ODHIR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti.

Thank you.