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REFERENCE: TS/JF

28 September 2009

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 75th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Italy, pursuant to Rule 65(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the responses to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 18 and 22 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/ITA/CO/15) adopted in February 2008, following consideration of the State party's fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports. The Committee thus appreciates the opportunity provided to continue the dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on action taken by the State party on these issues be included in its sixteenth to eighteenth periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 18 February 2011.

Paragraph 13 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee welcomes the steps taken by the State party in relation to the creation of a national human rights institution and looks forward to be provided with updated information on the status of the bill.

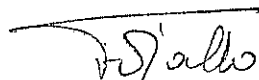
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Paragraph 18 of Concluding Observations. The Committee welcomes efforts undertaken to improve conditions in the Lampedusa Centre. The Committee would appreciate to receive more detailed information on the multicultural approach to health care mentioned in the report, and on safeguards to ensure that discriminatory effects can be avoided in following this approach.

Paragraph 22 of Concluding Observations. The Committee would like to thank the State party for the information provided and encourage further such efforts. It notes, however, that the case of the Roma and the Sinti remains sensitive and that further special attention may be required to combat the expression of racist attitudes in the media.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Italy, with a view to assisting in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah
Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination