



DECADE AFTER 2015 DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

I. Decade Content

The mission of the Decade is to eliminate discrimination against Roma and close the unacceptable gaps between Roma and the rest of society. This mission is pursued through working in the priority areas of education, employment, health and housing, and taking into consideration the cross-cutting issues of gender, poverty and discrimination while working in these areas.

Please discuss the mission and priority areas of the Decade after 2015, including their relevance, need for change, trends, standpoints of the various actors, etc. Discuss the effectiveness of having cross-cutting issues instead of singling out those areas as self-standing priorities. Discuss the extent of prioritizing (number of priorities, in-depth elaboration of priorities, general and individualized priorities, etc.). Discuss the inter-related feature of the priorities and how to best deal with it (including integral approach¹).

Please consider the need for introduction of other relevant priority areas in the Decade or similar international initiative dealing with Roma issues after 2015, such as: discrimination; culture (lifestyle); cultural policies; security; children rights and youth; early childhood development; personal documents; poverty; Romani women empowerment, rights; gender equity; participation in decision making; political participation; informing Roma (outreach); information about Roma in the mainstream (education curricula, media, etc.); media; awareness raising; fight against extremism; fight against stereotypes and prejudice; community development; etc.

Discuss the will of the participants (their organizations) and their possible commitments to work on similar mission after 2015. Discuss the timeframe for work on the same or similar mission.

The unique feature of the Decade is the principle of inclusion of Roma within its own process as a model of Roma inclusion in general. Please discuss the perspective of such a principle after 2015. Decade defines the mission and priority areas, and the planning beyond that is done on national level. Discuss the level of internationally agreed content an initiative for Roma inclusion should have after 2015.

II. Decade Process

Please discuss what the Decade implementation process is comprised of according to the opinion of the participants.

Mention the following core process elements of the Decade: National Action Plans, measuring and demonstrating progress, policy coordination, exchange of experience, information sharing.

Please discuss to which extent and why they have been useful, should they continue, should the format be retained or changed, how they could be made more useful for the partners, which other process elements could be introduced on international level.

Please discuss how the planning of National Action Plans can be improved and how implementation of National Action Plans can be ensured.

Please discuss how relevant stakeholders, governments in particular, intent to or should improve gathering reliable and publicly available disaggregated data, including baseline data, by which to measure and demonstrate progress.

¹ Integral approach means that benefit provided to beneficiaries is multidimensional and client-oriented, thus one beneficiary benefits in more than one area depending on their actual needs (for example a beneficiary is provided housing and employment, or a beneficiary is provided certified education, vocational training and private financial management skills)

Please discuss distribution of responsibilities for the different elements of the process among different stakeholders (government, Romani civil society, international organizations), and how the distribution can be made most effective.

III. Membership

Please discuss the membership of the Decade in terms of countries where it is implemented. Note that currently 12 countries participate and 2 have observer status. Discuss whether the Decade is still relevant in those countries and whether it will still be relevant after 2015. Discuss whether the Decade or similar Roma inclusion initiative is needed in those or in other countries. Discuss the motivating and limiting factors of the countries currently or potentially in the Decade to participate in such initiative after 2015.

Please consider the membership in the Decade from the perspective of its actors (governments and Romani civil society from participating countries and international partners). Please consider whether such format of membership is useful and why. Please discuss how various actors are contributing to the Decade so far, and what could be changed after 2015. Please discuss roles and responsibilities of different actors within the Decade and whether these should be changed after 2015.

Please note that the term Romani civil society is wider than Romani NGOs, and includes both formal and informal groups, leaders and experts, political organizations, etc. Please discuss how can the role and participation of the Romani civil society be strengthened, formalized, institutionalized, and better structured, providing for the reflection of the pluralism within the Romani civil society. Please discuss how governments should support stronger involvement of the Romani civil society, without jeopardizing its independence.

IV. Leadership/decision making

Leadership and decision making within the Decade are performed by the International Steering Committee (ISC), consisted of representatives of Government and Roma civil society of each participating country and representative of each International Partner. The ISC meets twice a year and decides by consensus.

Decade Presidency - Government of the presiding country (annually rotating) is leading the ISC and acts on behalf of it in between meetings. On national level, each Government has National Decade Coordinator.

Please discuss strengths and weaknesses of this system of leadership in the Decade. Should such a system continue to exist after 2015? How could it be improved in terms of responsibility, responsiveness, pro-activeness, effectiveness, etc.? How would the ideal Roma inclusion international policy be led?

Please discuss how leadership and decision making roles of the Romani civil society can be strengthened on international level within the Decade or similar international Roma inclusion policy after 2015.

V. Administration/management

The Decade is administered through the Presidency and Decade Secretariat that share roles of coordination, organizing international meetings, documenting, information sharing, representing the Decade, support to related processes (membership, reporting, etc.).

Please discuss strengths and weaknesses of this system of management of the Decade. Should such a system continue to exist after 2015? How could it be improved in terms of responsibility, responsiveness, pro-activeness, effectiveness, etc.? How would the ideal Roma inclusion international policy be administered / managed? How do you envisage the role of the Decade Secretariat after 2015, particularly in terms of services your organization could benefit from? How the Decade Secretariat could be strengthened to have sufficient capacities to provide the necessary support to the Presidency, the Decade and the Roma inclusion in general?

VI. Resources

Funding of the Decade is complex issue. On national level financial resources for the implementation of National Decade Action Plans are secured from the state budget and contribution of various donors. On international level, funding is provided from the Decade Trust Fund to which Governments and others can voluntarily contribute (apart from Governments only Open Society Foundation is contributing to the DTF, while the World Bank is providing in-kind support by administering the DTF). Besides the Decade Trust Fund internationally the Decade is also funded through contributions from various Decade partners, primarily the Open Society Foundations.

Please discuss strengths and weaknesses of this system of funding of the Decade. Should such a system continue to exist after 2015? How could it be improved? How would the ideal Roma inclusion international policy be funded? How do you envisage the financial contribution and role of your organization in a Roma inclusion international policy after 2015? How can Roma communities contribute to a Roma inclusion policy themselves? How can mobilization/generation of local resources be improved? What would be the strengths and weaknesses of independent national funds for implementation of Roma inclusion policies?

VII. Other international initiatives

Decade exists in a universe of international initiatives dealing with similar or related issues. The key international initiatives of this type are: European Union Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, Council of Europe's Ad-hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Action Plan on Roma and Sinti. The Decade is the only international setting dedicated solely to Roma inclusion.

Please discuss the relationship of the Decade with other international initiatives dealing with similar issues. What are the distinctive features of the Decade that complement other initiatives? What is the added value of the Decade and can it be retained and strengthened after 2015? What is the perspective of the Decade after 2015 in this international policy universe?

VIII. Decade after 2015 vision

In this part, participants of the meeting should take few minutes to think about their own vision about the Decade after 2015, along with their own (their organization's) role within that vision, briefly describe it and discuss with the other participants.