

Conclusions of the 9th International Steering Committee Meeting

November 16-17, 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria

The following is an edited version of concluding remarks to the 9th International Steering Committee Meeting by Bulgarian Decade Coordinator Baki Hyuseinov, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Policy.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to summarize briefly the principal decisions that we took during the 9th International Steering Committee Meeting:

1. Concerning the procedures and the rules for work with the Decade Trust Fund we took a decision to form a Steering Body, which will act in coordination with the International Steering Committee. In our discussion, we came to an agreement that this body will consist of three persons: one from the country currently holding the Decade Presidency, one from the country that will next hold the Decade Presidency, and one from the World Bank. The selection of proposals for financing by the Trust Fund will be done through an open competition; proposals can be made by the governments and by non-governmental organisations, too. The World Bank is engaged in the preparation of a form for submitting proposals. [Note: Now available at <http://www.romadecade.org/DTF.htm>.]
2. With a view to the better coordination and technical support of the Decade, a permanent Technical Support Unit will be established in Budapest with the financial support of the Open Society Institute. There will be opportunities for the placement of temporary consultants to the Technical Support Unit, if necessary. The staff of the Unit will be selected through open competition. Job descriptions for the staff positions will be prepared. The opinions of the International Steering Committee will be taken into consideration during the selection process.
3. With the support of the Open Society Institute and the World Bank, Roma civic organisations will be undertaking monitoring in the Decade countries ("Decade Watch") with the results expected in the spring of 2007. We expect the report presentation to be done in co-ordination with the governments and the representatives from non-governmental organisations.