



**International Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Racial  
Discrimination**

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Seventy-second session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1851st Meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on  
Wednesday, 20 February 2008, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. DAH

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION  
SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE  
CONVENTION (*continued*)

Fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports of Italy (CERD/C/ITA/15; list of issues and written replies of the State party, documents with no symbol, distributed in the meeting room in English only)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Italy took places at the Committee table.*
2. Mr. SIMONETTI (Italy) reaffirmed his country's commitment to the protection and promotion of all human rights and the importance accorded to the Committee's recommendations and concluding observations. The Italian Government, through its administrations, deemed it essential to promote the dialogue with civil society, in particular with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Inter-ministerial Committee of Human Rights had in recent months held a many informal consultations with such organizations in order to gather from their experience direct information about the difficulties and obstacles they faced in their action to eradicate racial discrimination in Italy.
3. Since 25 January 2008, when the Prodi Government had resigned after losing a vote of confidence, Italy had gone through a transitional period until the new elections on 13 April 2008. Italy, however, remained committed to complying with its international obligations within the United Nations system and the European Union.
4. Human rights protection was the guiding criterion for both the European Union and Italy's internal policy. Italy ensured that all persons present on its national territory enjoyed fundamental rights and freedoms, including security and protection against any form of violence or discrimination in access to essential services such as education and health. It also cooperated with the international community to enable all men, women and children, wherever they lived, to enjoy their fundamental human rights. The fight against racism, and the elimination of any form of racial discrimination were, therefore, a fundamental aspect of Italy's domestic and foreign policy.
5. The principle of non-discrimination was enshrined in Italian legislation. The 1948 Constitution protected all rights and fundamental freedoms, and the principle of non-discrimination, which was at the core of Italy's human rights protection system, was one of the basic pillars of the country's Constitutional Code. Enforcement of that principle was guaranteed in particular by Legislative Decree No. 215/2003, of 9 July 2003, following Council Directive 2000/43/EC of the European Union.
6. Over the years the problem of the flow of foreigners irregularly entering Italy had become an ever-growing concern. The Italian Government was improving the relevant legislation through the Amato-Ferrero Bill, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 24 April 2007 and currently under discussion in Parliament. That bill, the result of a long process supported by civil society and with the engagement of both central and local administrations, aimed to provide the legislative instruments needed to manage immigration in all its complexity, considering it as structural

rather than as an emergency; to promote legal immigration through measures to facilitate supply and demand of jobs; and to develop the integration and inclusion of legal migrants. The bill was also intended to provide other rights for foreigners who had been living legally in the country for at least five years, in addition to the right to housing, medical assistance and education and other social rights they already enjoyed.

7. The Italian authorities did not wage its fight against illegal immigration by mere repressive methods; current policies were aimed, above all, at sparing those concerned further suffering. The Italian Government was enhancing its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Italian Red Cross in rescue operations for illegal immigrants, especially on Lampedusa Island. The Act of April 2005 envisaged the institution of seven territorial commissions for the recognition of refugee status, simplification of the relevant procedures and the creation of a centre for identification of asylum-seekers. Those measures had been adopted in order to reinforce and improve the services on offer to immigrants in the form of healthcare, legal aid, interpretation and culture. A directive from the Ministry of the Interior to facilitate care of unaccompanied minors had entered into force on 8 March 2007.

8. Since illegal immigration was closely linked to trafficking in human beings, exploitation of prostitution and new forms of slavery, the Government had in recent years reinforced measures to prevent, in particular, trafficking in women and children for the purpose of prostitution. Special stay permits were now issued to all victims of trafficking to enable them to participate in social integration programmes. Special measures had also been introduced to counter sex tourism and there were plans to prosecute Italian nationals for offences they committed against minors abroad. There had been convictions for such acts, and there were a number of ongoing investigations. The Government had also introduced a bill to strengthen the measures to prevent and combat illegal labour and exploitation of irregular migrant workers.

9. The Italian Government had also redoubled its efforts to raise awareness of the situation of the Roma people. The Ministries of the Interior and Social Solidarity had in January 2008 convened an international conference on the situation of the Roma people in order to focus on their rights. In 2007 the Government had also intensified its bilateral cooperation with Romania in the security and justice sectors and had promoted the social inclusion of Roma people in Italy and socio-economic development in the countries of origin of the Roma-Romanian people.

10. In order to give effect to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of the European Union, the National Office for the Promotion of Equal Treatment and the Removal of Discrimination Based on Race or Ethnic Origin (UNAR) had been established within the Department for Equal Rights and Opportunities (CERD/C/ITA/15, para. 304). Its activities focused on preventing discriminatory acts, promoting equal treatment, putting an end to discriminatory conduct, evaluating enforcement of the principle of equal treatment, and subsequently reporting to Parliament.

11. In Italy, as in other European countries, racist behaviours were carefully monitored. They were mainly linked to anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and took the form of graffiti, drawings, declarations of intolerance and threatening letters and text messages. In order to respond to that phenomenon, the Committee against

Discrimination and Anti-Semitism had been set up within the Ministry of the Interior in January 2004 (para. 378) with the remit to engage in constant monitoring of the dangers of regression to forms of intolerance, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and to identify educational instruments and penalties to combat effectively any conduct inspired by religious or racial hatred.

12. The Italian authorities paid special attention to discrimination and racist violence at sports events, particularly football matches. Act No. 41 had been adopted on 4 April 2007 to strengthen national legislation for the prevention and repression of acts of violence during football matches and stiffened the penalties for crimes committed at sporting events.

13. Mr. DE GIORGI (Italy) said that UNAR, which came under the Department for Equal Rights and Opportunities, was tasked particularly with stamping out discrimination based on race and culture. The Office's action for eliminating situations linked to racial discrimination was governed by Legislative Decree No. 215 of 9 July 2003 and was in line with Council Directive 2003/43/EC of the European Union. UNAR promoted conciliation by proposing solutions designed to eliminate discriminatory situations, thus avoiding, when possible, recourse to judicial proceedings. Its activity was carried out essentially through the Office's focal point. That unit could be contacted free of charge and its operators were there to receive comments, complaints and statements relating to acts, events, situations, procedures and activities that impaired equal treatment for reasons based on race or ethnic origin. They offered immediate assistance to victims of discrimination and provided information, advice and psychological support.

14. The focal point was a specific example of assistance to victims in that it received their complaints and immediately helped those who considered themselves victims of acts of racial or ethnic discrimination. They assisted them promptly and competently and, in collaboration with UNAR and under the direction of UNAR experts, took appropriate measures to remedy such cases if possible, or to support the victims of acts of discrimination during the judicial process. The focal point had dealt with several hundreds of cases, and 265 cases had been tried.

15. In 2007, the Office had recognized the need to increase its presence on the ground in order to support victims of racist acts and systematically identify racist behaviour. The authorities preferred mediation as a means of settling disputes, although that was not always possible. In 2007, most cases had been settled in that way.

16. In matters of prevention, UNAR promoted corrective measures against discrimination and organized equality awareness campaigns. Each year the Office organized an anti-racism week; the next one would take place in 2008.

17. The Office assigned priority to the elimination of racial discrimination on the employment market and had taken steps to defend the rights of the most vulnerable groups. It also planned to institute a series of vocational training modules involving workers and employers. The Office was also studying special strategies for moving beyond victim support and attacking the deepest roots of the problems.

18. Mr. CAPUTO (Italy) explained that the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration was endeavouring to establish a system that balanced job supply and demand in order to regulate the clandestine labour market. Municipalities' sponsorship of foreigners had been resuscitated and administrative procedures for

obtaining a stay permit had been streamlined. The Department was also charged with protecting the victims of human trafficking and exploitation. The police could now issue stay permits to victims for purposes of social integration.

19. The conference on the Roma people had attempted to study the repression of which they had been victims during the Nazi regime and analyse the role the media played in the discrimination to which they were often subjected. Several working groups had been created to intensify coordination and cooperation in that area among ministries, local administrations and other actors. The conference outcome would be used to draw up national pro-Roma strategies.

20. Ms. CARROCCIO (Italy) said that, since 2006, Italian immigration policy had been based on a new approach for settling problems relating to immigrant integration using new methods, including enhanced collaboration among all stakeholders and the participation of migrant groups and the main associations involved in framing a new immigration policy and creating a new integration model. That approach had also been used in the drafting of the Amato-Ferrero Bill.

21. In 2007 the Government had made a special effort to ensure that all legal migrants enjoyed the same rights as Italian nationals in access to social security services, including those relating to accidents, illness, invalidity and unemployment. Moreover, the Amato-Ferrero Bill granted all migrants legally residing in Italy for at least two years access to other benefits, such as invalidity payments and maternity benefits, previously reserved for holders of long-term residence permits.

22. A most encouraging outcome of that policy had been the creation, under the 2007 Financial Act, of the Fund for the Social Inclusion of Migrants and their Families, with a provision of €50 million, €3 million of which were devoted to the prevention of housing marginalization and discrimination in access to housing, while €1 million was allocated to facilitating the inclusion of Roma and Sinti children in the education system. In 2008 the Fund had a provision of €100 million.

23. Planned activities for the Fund would take the form of joint or autonomous projects by local communities, NGOs and volunteer associations involved with migrants, as part of partnerships between the public administration and civil society. Some of the funds would be used to finance surveys for gathering qualitative and quantitative data that would be used to assess progress.

24. The resources allocated to the Fund would also finance projects to facilitate access by Roma and Sinti people to housing and to promote their social integration in areas around Rome, Turin, Milan and Padua, especially to offer them emergency housing in the event of evacuation or forced eviction and to recover buildings in order to rent them at better rates than those offered on the rental market. The apartments would be set up in different buildings in order to avoid ghettoization.

25. Some of the projects aimed to encourage Italian householders to rent their houses to Roma people, such as a special fund for guaranteeing owners against the risk of delay in rent payment. A project under study also aimed to involve Roma families in the construction of their houses and, at the same time, offer them professional training in the building trade.

26. It should be said that housing policies were defined locally although minimum standards were established at the central level. In order to address that problem, Act No. 222 of November 2007 had defined a public housing plan and allocated

€544 million to the regions. That Act also provided for the creation of the National Housing Observatory and regional observatories to monitor housing policies and needs. After two years in country, legal resident migrants enjoyed the right of access to public housing lists and temporary boarding-house accommodation.

27. One of the priorities of the Fund for the Social Integration of Migrants and their Families was to strengthen the measures for protecting unaccompanied foreign minors, to which end €10 million were to be allocated and which would be implemented with the support of the Italian National Association of Municipalities. Activities were also planned for improving the data-collection system in order to have a better idea of the effectiveness of integration measures for such children. There were also plans to simplify and speed up the family investigation procedure concerning those minors.

28. The Council for the Problems of Migrants and their Families, suspended years ago, had been re-established in December 2007 within the Ministry of Social Solidarity. That body was composed of representatives of trade unions, migrants' associations and officials of the central and local administrations engaged with integration issues; 21 of its members had been appointed by migrants' associations and were themselves migrants. Its remit was to monitor the situation of migrants and make proposals in that regard. It had begun its deliberations in December 2007 and was to meet every six months.

29. In conclusion, regarding the question of cooperation between Romania and Italy, in December 2007 the Romanian Minister of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunity and the Italian Minister of Social Solidarity had signed a joined declaration on the launch of joint and autonomous labour, education and housing projects. The two countries had decided to allocate resources to integration programmes for Roma people living in a situation of economic and social marginalization. Italy also intended to grant the Romanian Government technical assistance in project funding and management, and the two countries would regularly share information and best practices. The Italian Government would help Romanian migrants, including Roma, to gain access to information on employment and integration possibilities in Italy.

30. Mr. KEMAL (Country Rapporteur) welcomed the State party's comprehensive and detailed report and the delegation's oral introduction. He briefly drew the delegation's attention to Committee's recommendations following its consideration of Italy's thirteenth periodic report in 2001, particularly those contained in paragraphs 308 to 310, 312 and 317 of its conclusions and recommendations (A/56/18, paras. 298 to 320), which were just as pertinent for the fifteenth periodic report. Citing some of the salient points of the report, notably the transposition of Council Directive 2000/43/EC through adoption of Legislative Decree No. 215 of 9 July 2003, he expressed satisfaction that the State party had spared no effort to fulfil its obligations under article 9 of the Convention, and welcomed the additional information furnished in the written replies to the list of issues. He also applauded the fact that the State party had widely disseminated the Committee's latest concluding observations and had taken them in account. There were, however, some shortcomings in that regard.

31. He called the delegation's attention to a passage in the report (A/HRC/4/19/Add.4), prepared by Mr. Doudou Diène, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related

intolerance, following his mission to Italy, in which he recognized that Italian society was not marked by a serious phenomenon of deep-rooted racism, but was facing a serious trend of xenophobia and the development of manifestations of racism, primarily affecting the Sinti and Roma community, immigrants and asylum-seekers primarily of African origin. The Special Rapporteur's recommendations were contained in paragraphs 66, 69 and 83 of his report.

32. Regarding Italy's written replies to the list of issues, especially its reply to question 1, on the population's ethnic characteristics, he would like to see additional statistics on the national or ethnic minorities living in the country, in particular the Roma and Sinti.

33. With regard to the replies to questions 2 and 3 of the list of issues, concerning progress made on the integration of the Roma and Sinti, and the bill intended to regulate the presence and status of Roma people living in Italy (CERD/C/ITA.15, para. 176), he regretted that Act No. 482/1999 did not include the Roma population among the linguistic minorities whose rights were protected, for reasons of non-compliance with the territoriality requirements provided by that Act. On the positive side, he welcomed the activities of the National Office for the Promotion of Equal Treatment and the Removal of Discrimination Based on Race or Ethnic Origin (UNAR), especially the convening of the European Conference on Roma Populations in January 2008, in order to identify possible solutions to the problems of minorities, and especially to eradicate prejudice against them.

34. According to one NGO, Bill No. 1867 concerning the protection of the Roma and Sinti minority had been submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Affairs in June 1998 but withdrawn nine months later, a fact that those communities saw as indifference to their plight. Another NGO had accused the Italian Government of failure to comply with its obligation to prohibit and end racial discrimination, of refusing to recognize the Roma and Sinti as a linguistic and cultural minority, and of adopting a number of regulatory actions that facilitated Roma people's forced eviction from their homes and expulsion from the country. He would like the delegation to comment on those allegations.

35. Concerning the reply to question 4 on the list of issues, relating to forced evictions of Roma, the State party had limited itself to citing laws without indicating the measures taken to address the problem. NGOs had come out strongly against Legislative Decree No. 181/2007, which gave local authorities greater discretionary powers to remove European Union citizens and other immigrants from the country. However, a more positive step had been the entry into force of in January 2008 of a Legislative Decree affording immigrants a higher degree of protection against expulsion. Could the delegation provide the Committee with more information on the subject?

36. With regard to the replies to question 5 on the list of issues, relating to the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, he had noted in the State party's replies that a bill had been introduced for establishing a national commission for human rights protection and promotion and for the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their personal freedom and that it had been transmitted to the Senate. It was important to accelerate the establishment of that institution and to strengthen UNAR as an effective autonomous body.

37. In the replies to questions 6 and 7, concerning respectively the de facto segregation of the Roma and Sinti living in Camminanti (Travellers) camps and the question of prevention of segregation of Roma children in schools, he had noted with satisfaction the joint declaration of Italy and Romania, the creation of the Fund for the Social Integration of Migrants and their Families, and the strategic plan for integration and for improvement of services to marginalized groups. He would like to see the Roma and Sinti explicitly referred to among the beneficiaries of that plan. He also welcomed the signing in 2005 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the protection of Roma minors, concluded between the Association for Nomads and the Ministry of Education. However, some NGOs claimed that the Italian Government had failed to prevent and eradicate the racial segregation of Roma and Sinti.

38. Regarding question 8, concerning public racist discourse by the Northern League party against immigrants from non-European Union countries and members of the Roma and Sinti communities, he had noted the State party's reply that six members of that party had been found guilty by the courts and sentenced to prison terms and a heavy fine and legal expenses. However, with regard to article 4 of the Convention, freedom of expression did not give licence to express opinions that were clearly contrary to the right to equality and to be protected against discrimination.

39. Where the reply to question 9 was concerned, regarding policy on perpetrators of racially motivated violence at football matches, there was heightened awareness in sport worldwide to the need to curb racist behaviour, and a policy of zero tolerance was applied to spectators and players alike. He would like the delegation to provide additional information on how the State party was addressing that phenomenon.

40. With regard to the reply to question 11, concerning the situation of undocumented migrant workers, follow-up information on the outcome of the Bari public prosecutor's criminal proceedings against the 20 persons accused of criminal association for trafficking in human beings and exploitation of migrants would be welcome. Also, the reply to question 12 was too general and left unanswered the question of the effective participation of the Roma and Sinti in the country's political life. Likewise, concerning question 13, he would like additional information on any favourable impact of the circular letter of 5 January 2007 on administrative obstacles to foreigners' naturalization.

41. The reply to question 14 on the list of issues, relating to the Protocol of Agreement concluded among UNAR, the national labour organizations and employers' associations in order to combat discrimination in the workplace, would benefit from further information on the success of the scheme.

42. In conclusion, it would be useful to have an update on the process for Italy's ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and whether the scenario was encouraging or otherwise, in view of the country's forthcoming elections.

43. Mr. AVTONOMOV asked whether the bills entitled "Protection of the right to nomadism and the recognition of gypsy populations as linguistic minorities" and "Recognition of the Romany, Sinti and Traveller communities" referred to in paragraph 177 of the report had been passed and, if so, what was their content. He would like to know the results of the study conducted on foreign adolescents and the



world of work, which was to have been presented at a seminar in May 2005 and whether something was being done to improve hygiene conditions in the Roma and Sinti camps. He would also like to know whether those two communities were represented in the forces of law and order, how many Roma and Sinti were in provisional or other detention and, generally speaking, what percentage of the prison population belonged to vulnerable groups.

44. Mr. PROSPER asked whether the State party had an institution specifically devoted to prosecution of authors of acts of racial discrimination and a body responsible for verifying that municipal regulations were not discriminatory to the Roma and Sinti populations; if not, did the State party have plans to establish such institutions?

45. Mr. KJAERUM asked whether the frontier police informed foreigners subject to *refoulement* of their asylum-seeking possibilities and, where appropriate, whether those initiating an asylum-seeking procedure had the right to remain on Italian territory until the competent authorities had made their decision and whether they could claim legal aid.

46. He would like to know whether Legislative Decree No. 416/1989, under which unauthorized departure from a holding centre amounted to withdrawal of an application for recognition of refugee status, was frequently enforced; what action was taken on applications of refugee status considered to have expired on those grounds; and whether return to the holding centre automatically relaunched the procedure.

47. Another question was in what case the new Decree authorizing representatives of the Ministry of the Interior to expel, with the authorization of a judge, any person endangering the fundamental interest of the State had been applied.

48. With reference to paragraph 491 of the report, he would also like to know in what way the occupational characteristics of workers from the countries of Eastern Europe were more favourable to their insertion in industrial companies than those of African workers and what stage had been reached on the State party's plan to establish a national human rights protection institution.

49. Mr. DE GOUTTES asked about the competence of the Single Desk for Immigration designed to facilitate the procedures for issuing authorizations to recruit non-European Union workers or for family reunification, what relationship existed between that body and potential employers and whether there were quotas for the various sectors. He would be particularly interested to learn if the granting of a work permit was subject to possession of a work contract and whether dismissed foreign workers were required to leave the country, even if they were installed there with their families.

50. Given that the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, as well as NGOs in the State party had denounced the racist and xenophobic discourse of certain Italian politicians, including Mr. Berlusconi, an advocate of "zero tolerance", and representatives of the Northern League, he would like to know what measures the State party had taken to punish racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic discourse, as well as the delegation's views on the measures taken by a number of communes in northern Italy to restrict migrants' rights, particularly limiting migrant children's access to public schools and to healthcare, and the rights of migrants to marry.

51. He would like to know what actual problems the State party encountered regarding the integration of the Roma and what measures it had taken to address them, as well as whether it had taken into account, to that end, the Committee's General Recommendation No. XXVII on Discrimination against Roma.

52. It would be useful to have additional information on the Lampedusa and Lecce holding centres; on the rights guaranteed to minors who had entered the territory illegally, especially regarding access to education, healthcare and social security; on the all too frequent manifestations of racism in the world of sport and at football fields; and on the problem posed by the very high number of foreigners in prison and, conversely, the particularly small number of court proceedings against perpetrators of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic acts.

53. Mr. DIACONU welcomed the State party's recognition of ethnic minority status of the Mochena and Cimbrian communities but wished to know why the same had not been done for the Roma, who were the country's minority group most affected by discrimination.

54. The heinous crime committed by a Romanian in the autumn of 2007 had led to a resurgence of violence against members of that community, including bodily harm, and had resulted in racist and xenophobic discourse by opponents of Mr. Prodi, which was echoed in the press. It was States' responsibility to lead the general fight against that type of discourse and to establish a climate of coexistence and respect among the country's various communities.

55. On the basis of information supplied by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, and local NGOs, he deplored the fact that some 20,000 young Roma could not register in secondary schools, notably because they did not hold work permits. The fact that they possessed no identity papers because they had not been registered at birth meant that members of that community could not, unlike legal foreigners, aspire to Italian citizenship and were deprived of certain rights, such as the right to education. Could the delegation say whether the State party intended to remedy that discriminatory situation?

56. He would further like to know whether the State party intended to take steps to improve the conditions of Roma in camps, marked by numerous human rights violations, as well as the slavery-like working conditions of immigrants in agriculture.

57. He would like to hear the delegation's view on the thesis that manifestations of xenophobia in Italy were due to an identity crisis in the face of multiculturalism.

58. Mr. PETER, while welcoming the establishment of the National Office for the Promotion of Equal Treatment and the Removal of Discrimination Based on Race or Ethnic Origin (UNAR), said that the institution, whose remit was very specific, could not replace a genuinely independent human rights commission. He invited the delegation to comment on the matter. Invoking information from NGOs to the effect that insulting posters referring to Travellers had been posted throughout the country, he asked how the State party was fighting indirect discrimination. He would also like information on unaccompanied foreign children placed in holding centres, sometimes for long periods since few families were prepared to take them in pending a solution.

59. Mr. LAHIRI said he wondered how determined the State party really was to comply with its obligations towards the Roma, especially under articles 4 to 7 of the Convention. He also wondered why Italy found it so difficult to combat the dissemination of racist and xenophobic discourse and was surprised that no judicial proceedings had been instituted for that offence. In that regard, he regretted that UNAR was not empowered to bring the authors of racist discourse to justice. He welcomed the State party's declaration under article 14 of the Convention, but was surprised that no individual had ever submitted a communication to the Committee. Lastly, he would like information on the number and nationalities of persons expelled in 2007 and early 2008.

60. Mr. LINDGREN ALVES observed with concern that sedentary Roma living in Italy continued to be the subject of discrimination even when they had acquired Italian nationality. He would like to know whether the State party was taking affirmative action to assist the Roma and Sinti in gaining recognition of their right to a place in society. Italy was one of the European countries with the most illegal immigrants, and the European Union might consider carrying out information campaigns in the countries of origin to explain to potential emigrants the risks they ran if they entered Europe illegally and to warn them that they would serve as scapegoats every time there was an economic or social crisis in the host countries.

61. Mr. THORNBERRY said he would like more information on the Italian school system, particularly whether there were Roma teachers or at least teachers with some knowledge of Roma culture. He also wondered whether Roma or foreign children could receive linguistic support in school. He drew the State party's attention to paragraph 18 of General Recommendation No. XXVII on Discrimination against Roma. It was stated in paragraph 265 of the periodic report that intercultural education was the underlying integrating factor in the educational options provided by individual schools. He would like to know what was actually being done in schools where the majority of pupils were Italian to promote tolerance and make children aware of other cultures. Regarding the dissemination of racist and xenophobic discourse in the media, it would be useful to know whether there was a code of ethics for the media, which dealt in particular with the problem of racism and racial discrimination. Lastly, he would like to know whether the Committee's concluding observations were translated into Italian and made available to the population.

62. Mr. ABOUL NASR, referring to the situation of clandestine immigrants from North Africa and the Middle East, who arrived on unsafe boats on Italian coasts, cited information to the effect that such immigrants were arrested and forcibly returned to their countries of origin, regardless of their status. He would like to hear the delegation's views on the matter. In conclusion, he would like to know whether African children in Italy could, like children of other origins, acquire Italian nationality on attaining their majority.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*