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DEC 24 2018

Dear Mr. Tuncak,

I refer to your letter to the Secretary-General, dated 23 November 2018, in which you seek further information concerning the United Nations efforts to address the needs of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities affected by lead poisoning.

In my previous letter to you, dated 5 October 2018, I have detailed the steps undertaken by the Organization, in particular efforts to mobilize resources for the Trust Fund established to support community assistance projects benefitting the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

I share your disappointment at the lack of international response to the outreach efforts undertaken by the United Nations, including the personal appeals by the Secretary-General to Member States, regional organizations and private foundations to contribute to the Trust Fund. We intend to continue to follow up with the Member States and organizations to encourage positive responses to the Secretary-General's appeal.

Besides efforts to mobilize resources to the Trust Fund, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Kosovo Team will continue to direct available resources to support the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities through programmatic activities and dedicated projects. During the 2017-2018 budget period, UNMIK has implemented a number of confidence-building projects and programmatic activities that included representatives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, such as "Inter-ethnic trainings and Inter-cultural Activities", "Human Rights Forum", "Breast Cancer Awareness for Women and Education on Keeping Physical and Oral Hygiene among Children from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian

Mr. Baskut Tuncak
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Community” and “Support to Women Income Generation and Capacity-building Activities”. During the same period, 142 representatives of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities participated in youth-oriented programmatic activities during the same period.

For the 2018-2019 period, UNMIK confidence-building projects and programmatic activities foresee the participation of representatives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in several projects, such as “Civic Education Week for Bosniak and Roma Children”, “Women and Youth on the Job Vocational Professional Training Program”, “Strengthening Local Community Representatives, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Media with a focus on minorities to efficiently promote inter-municipal cooperation on practical community issues and implement guidelines on incidents affecting non-majority communities” and other projects.

We continue to believe that targeted assistance through community-focused projects remains the most appropriate means of responding to the recommendations of the Human Rights Advisory Panel.

Yours sincerely,



 Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General for
Peacekeeping Operations