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05 October 2018

Excellency,

I refer to your letter to the Secretary-General, dated 11 July 2018, in which you requested an update on the status of the Trust Fund established in support of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.

The United Nations fully shares the concerns expressed in your letter about the suffering of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo. You will recall that the Trust Fund was established to support the implementation of assistance projects addressing the most pressing needs of these communities in the areas of health, economic development and infrastructure in North and South Mitrovica and Leposavić/Leposaviq.

Since the establishment of the Trust Fund in July 2017, a dedicated task force at United Nations Headquarters has undertaken outreach and resource mobilization efforts targeting Member States and other stakeholders on Kosovo to galvanize support for the Fund. These efforts have been coupled with regular appeals to Member States in the reports of the Secretary-General and briefings of his Special Representative to the Security Council, Mr. Zahir Tanin, on Kosovo. In addition to the targeted outreach campaign undertaken in New York, the same donors were approached in Pristina and Geneva with an appeal to contribute to the Trust Fund. Subsequently, the outreach efforts were expanded to civil society organizations, major private foundations, and United Nations funding sources to explore potential synergies and lessons for mobilizing funds.

In addition, on 5 June 2018, the Secretary-General addressed personal letters to the leaders of 13 Member States, regional organizations and major foundations with an appeal to contribute to the Trust Fund. The letters also conveyed a project proposal in the health sector developed by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Kosovo team, as well as the estimated target contribution amount of \$4.5 million to fund future assistance projects.

Mr. Baskut Tuncak
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights
of the environmentally sound management and disposal
of hazardous substances and wastes
Geneva

Regretfully, despite expressions of political support from Member States, no financial contribution has yet been received from the international community in response to these appeals.

The Secretary-General continues to believe that it is our shared duty to support the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo and ensure that they receive the assistance they need. The Organization remains committed to helping these most vulnerable communities and will continue to make every effort, in consultation with Member States, to mobilize resources in support of the Trust Fund.

Yours sincerely,



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