

WORKING GROUP ON UPR
- examination of Finland – May 23, 2012 -

Madam President,

The delegation of Romania would like to congratulate the delegation of Finland on the comprehensive presentation of the human rights situation in Finland, showing both progress and challenging aspects.

We believe that each State who is committed to improving the human rights protection needs to acknowledge the problems that are still hampering a full enjoyment of human rights. Striving for solutions and putting in place the right mechanisms are only subsequent to identifying and admitting of the problems.

In our opinion, the Government of Finland's policies prove that they are responsive to deficiencies in the field of human rights. We congratulate the Finnish authorities for the concrete measures undertaken, such as the interdepartmental program for 2010-2015, aimed at reducing the violence against women, the Action Plan to combat long-term homelessness, the new Integration Act from 2011, dealing with immigrants, and the efforts made to improve the rights of the *sami* community.

We also noted that a debate has been initiated in March this year concerning a National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. The Romanian authorities would appreciate to know more on this project and to be informed on advances in this respect.

The delegation of Romania would also appreciate receiving further clarification on the following questions:

We understand that the gender equality is promoted through a twin track strategy – (specific measures for removing obstacles to equality and mainstreaming of the gender perspective in all policymaking and policy formulation). Could the delegation of Finland highlight a few significant results of the implementation of this strategy? And the periodicity of its up-dating?

Thank you, Madam President.