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Deputy Permanent Representative  
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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

## 15th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

### Finland's questions and recommendations to Romania 22 January 2013

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank Romania for the national report and its presentation today. Finland commends Romania's commitment to equality and non-discrimination.

Finland welcomes the adoption of the new national **Roma strategy** and would like to hear how Romania intends to ensure its efficient implementation, including the participation of local and regional authorities.

A large number of **Roma children** in Romania don't attend school or suffer from segregation. This puts them in an unequal position not only regarding their right to education but their opportunities later in life in terms of economic, social and political empowerment.

**Finland recommends** that Romania take special measures to guarantee Roma children equal access to inclusive quality education. Full participation of the Roma themselves in these efforts is extremely important.

Finland thanks Romania for the information provided and the measures taken with regard to the 2008 UPR recommendation No. 8 on **LGBT rights**. However, the information about the continuing discrimination against the LGBT persons is of concern to Finland.

**Finland recommends** that Romania further intensify training for State and local authorities and the public at large on international human rights standards, particularly those in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity.

I thank you.