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Statement by the delegation of Romania on the UPR of Serbia

Mr. President,

The delegation of Romania would like to thank the delegation of Serbia for its presentation of the report for the second cycle of the UPR. We welcome the progress achieved since the previous examination and the positive developments.

Nevertheless we consider, there are still issues of concern such as the obstacles met by the Serbian citizens from Eastern Serbia for free access to religious services, education and mass-media in their own mother language, in Romanian.

The United Nations and the Council of Europe have repeatedly underlined that the State must not condition the granting of certain rights, including the registration of a religious community and the recognition of its legal status, on the agreement of another religious community.

Mr President,

We recommend Serbia to enforce the principle of separation between State and Church in accordance with its' own Constitution and not to condition the fulfilment of the rights of some of its citizens by the agreement of a religious body.

Against this background we recommend to the Government of Serbia to take the necessary measures to allow the access to religious services, as well as to education and media, in Romanian language to all the persons requesting so all over its territory.

RAZVAN ROTUNDO