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Statement of Republic of Albania on China's UPR

Thank you Mr. President,

Albania welcomes the progress made by China since its last UPR review. We highly appreciate the fact that the consultation process included many representatives of civil society, whose input contributed to the drafting of a balanced, comprehensive and realistic report.

Through these years China has demonstrated good will and commitment to address issues of Human Rights, in particular to eradicate poverty; protect women, children, old and disabled persons rights; strengthen judiciary system and domestic legislation with the view of safeguarding Human Rights; promote Universal Human Rights Principals and raise public awareness on the issue; enforce compulsory education for all children, etc.

Albania welcomes the abolishing of about 19.1% of all capital crime categories and urges China to put an end to death penalty once and forever, as an extreme and incorrigible practice.

We consider the diminution of "re-education through labour" (RTL) cases and the commitment to "cease" the RTL within 2013, as a major step forward and encourage China to accelerate the ultimate banning of this practice.

Albania takes the opportunity to address the following recommendations to China:

1. Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
2. Sign the Third Optional Protocol of the CRC (Convention on the Rights of Child);
3. Step up cooperation with Special Procedures and Mandate Holders.

We wish China all the success in its future endeavours.

Thank you Mr. President.