

**UN Human Rights Council
18th Session of the Working Group of the UPR
Review of Macedonia**

Geneva, January 2014

Statement by Armenia

Thank you Mr President

Armenia welcomes the delegation of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and thanks them for the presentation of the second UPR report. We take particular note of the legislative and institutional improvements marked in the country since the first UPR cycle.

In this regard, we highlight the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, and the signature of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights.

Armenia acknowledges with appreciation state policies and programmes towards protection of the rights of Roma community, in particular National Strategy for Roma in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the 2005-2015 decade of Roma inclusion.

Armenia also welcomes the efforts towards promoting gender equality and non discrimination in the country. In this regard, we highlight the adoption of the 2012-2015 National Strategy on Equality and Non Discrimination as well as the 2013-2020 Strategy on Gender Equality, aiming to guarantee equal opportunities between men and women.

Armenia recommends The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

1. to continue the implementation of national educational programs and strategies in order to ensure that every child has equal access to education,
2. To further continue promoting gender equality in order to explicitly prohibit all forms of discrimination against women