



18th Session of the Working group of the Universal Periodic Review
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the delegation headed by Mr. Igor Dzunev and to thank him for the presentation of the National report.

We welcome that the independence of judiciary is a priority for the Government and that productive measures were undertaken to improve efficiency of justice system, which resulted in the reduction of backlog of court cases. We commend the legislative reforms that led to the adoption of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Serbia commends the level of inter-community tolerance in society and the respect by the Government for the rights of non-majority communities, including the establishment of the Agency for Rights of Communities. We praise the authorities for the measures taken to ensure the functioning of media services serving various minority groups.

Regarding protection against discrimination, we welcome the comprehensive approach of the Law on the Prevention of and Protection against Discrimination that incorporates an open-ended list of discriminatory grounds. We salute the establishment of the independent body for protection against discrimination and support its further strengthening.

Mr. President,

Our delegation would like to take this opportunity to point out the importance of cooperation between Government and independent institutions for the protection of human rights with NGO's and media professionals with a view to promoting tolerance and respect for diversities.

Thank you Mr. President