

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA ON UPR OF THE COUNTRY
UNDER REVIEW

Thank you,

Albania welcomes the delegation of the country under review to this UPR session and commends its achievements with respect to protection and promotion of Human Rights.

At first, we commend the completion of judiciary reform. Key to this reform is independence and quality of judges. We note that in order to tackle this problem, a new system for the evaluation of judges was put in place. We look forward to hear on the achievements of this mechanism in the future.

Second, Albania commends your country's track record with regard to gender equality and women's increased participation to the decision making processes. You have recently adopted a new law on gender equality. We ask the distinguished delegation to provide more information on the concrete results of this law's application on the ground.

Albania considers that the implementation of Ohrid Agreement constitutes a key element for democracy, rule of law, peace, stability and the future of your country and region wide. We welcome the activities undertaken so far for its implementation, but still there are some matters of concern related to the use of Albanian language, symbols and the education notably: separation along ethnic lines in schools, adequate conditions for learning and the proper review of history and civilization textbooks. We further welcome the adoption of the Strategy on Integrated Education in 2010.

Albania highly recommends to further review and strengthen measures in place toward full implementation of the Ohrid Agreement aiming at integration without assimilation, especially on issues of use of Albanian language and in providing the necessary conditions for the education in minority languages.

We recommend the country under review to take further measures for the implementation of the Strategy on Integrated Education and to provide adequate State funding to be allocated for the implementation of this Strategy.

We wish the country under review a good continuation and success for its future.

I thank you Mr. President.