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UPR 19th SESSION

COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: ALBANIA

Intervention by Turkey

28 April 2014

Mr. President,

We welcome the Albanian delegation and thank them for their successful presentation.

Turkey appreciates Albania's consistent efforts towards the establishment of democratic institutions and the steady progress in the field of human rights, which is also reflected in the reports of various international and regional organizations.

We encourage Albania in its fight against domestic violence and support it to take effective measures for the emancipation of women, in particular through education and integration into the labour market. In this respect, the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Elimination of Domestic Violence and its Action Plan is a useful benchmark. We **recommend** Albania to continue adopting and implementing robust measures to better address domestic violence and develop programmes to assist the victims of domestic violence. In this respect, we welcome the amendment to the Criminal Code, making violence in the family an offence, punishable by up to five years of imprisonment.

We **further recommend** Albania to strengthen efforts and remain vigilant on the issue of blood feud.

Property rights and registration is another aspect of ensuring gender equality. The adoption of the law "On Social Assistance and Services" is an important step to this end. We **recommend** Albania to take effective measures to accelerate the consolidation of property rights.

Finally, we are pleased to see that Albania has designated harmonization of its domestic legislation with the international human rights standards as a top priority item in the field of promotion and protection of human rights. We **recommend** Albania to cooperate with the OHCHR in this endeavour.

Thank you, Mr. President.