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ROMANIA

*Check against delivery*

**Universal Periodical Review  
Session 19  
Examination of Albania  
Intervention of the Romanian delegation**

Thank you Mr President,

Romania salutes the presence of the distinguished Albanian delegation in the UPR process.

We appreciate the update on the evolutions in the country since the last examination. Albania realised an impressive progress in the last two decades, succeeding to overcome the legacy of the dictatorship and the challenges of the transition period. The progress realised in different areas is impressive and it has to be acknowledged.

Our main element of interest remains the effective protection and implementation of the rights of persons belonging to all minorities in Albania.

In this respect, we share the observation of the Committee for Elimination of Racial Discrimination that the distinction between national and ethno-linguistic minorities may be contrary to the principle of non-discrimination.

Therefore, we highly recommend Albania to abolish any legal ground for differentiated treatment between national and ethno-linguistic minorities and ensure equal access **in practice** to rights for persons belonging to all minorities throughout Albania, especially the right of education in and of the minority languages.

We also recommend Albania to adopt legislation on the restitution of the properties confiscated during the communist period.