



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
to United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

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19<sup>th</sup> Session of the WG on UPR  
UPR of Albania

Statement  
of  
Mr. Dusko Uzunovski  
Minister Counselor  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

*Geneva, April 28, 2014*

Thank you Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia would like to welcome the delegation of Albania and to thank for the presentation of their national report.

We commend Albania's ratification of several important international documents since the first UPR in 2009 and note the progress made in the areas of women's and children's' rights.

We would also like to acknowledge the setting up of a new mechanism to monitor the progress of the National strategy of Roma in Albania.

We note that despite the progress achieved, the issue of domestic violence remains a challenge. We urge the Government to initiate further activities to strengthen the efforts in combating domestic violence against women and intensify the awareness-raising measures.

We wish to address the following questions to the delegation:

Q.1 What is the current status of the stakeholder consultations organized by the Ministry of Local Issues regarding the new law on administrative and territorial division? We would like to know more about the results so far if any and what are the steps taken to ensure the full participation of minority groups in these consultations.

Q.2 What policies are envisaged to tackle the problem of labour rights for members of ethno-linguistic and national minorities in light of recent incidents of lay-offs based on ethnic identity?

The Republic of Macedonia would like to make the following recommendations to Albania:

- 1) To implement the measures contained in the resolution recently adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the implementation by Albania of the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities, in particular those relating to the right of self-identification of minorities in the census processes and creating conditions for education in minority languages, including Macedonian, on the entire territory of the state;
- 2) While finalizing the New law on administrative and territorial division, to take into full account the CoE European Charter of Local Self-Government (art. 6 para. 4) and Article 108 para. 2 of the Albanian Constitution.

- 3) To increase efforts in tackling domestic violence, gender stereotypes and discrimination on that ground.

Thank you Mr. President.

