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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
GENEVA

**United Nations Human Rights Council
21st Session of the UPR Working Group
Geneva, 19 - 30 January 2015**

**Albania National Statement on Interactive dialog of Armenia UPR
22 January 2015**

Albania welcomes the distinguished delegation of Armenia and thank for their report presented here today.

Albania recognizes the process of initiating Constitutional reforms and the renewed engagement of the Armenia Government to protect human rights expressed through ratification of different international human rights covenant since the first UPR cycle.

We highlight our appreciation to the Armenia support on the functioning of the Human Rights Defender, and the implementation of National Strategy for the protection of Human Rights, in particular to the *efforts* for ensuring the promotion of equal human rights for women, persons with disabilities, national minorities and children.

We like to encourage more budgetary efforts be made in order to insure the adequate functioning of all national mechanisms for the protection of the Human Rights.

Albania would like to *offer* the following recommendations to Armenia :

1. Elaborate gender sensitive approach on the programs and policies which address human rights discrimination and take the necessary actions to raise awareness on attitudes and stereotypes targeting women and sexual minorities in society.
2. Strengthen protection of women rights, particularly by adopting the legal measures to prohibit the gender based and domestic violence against women and girls.
3. Amend the Criminal Code in order to criminalize the recruitment of children under the age of 18 years into armed forces and establish national mechanism to provide former child soldier with the necessary assistance for their reintegration in society.
4. Effectively implement the legal amendments in order to guarantee the rights of persons deprived of liberty, particularly in the place of detention.

Thank you Mr. President