

Albania Statement during the interactive dialog on Bulgaria 2nd Cycle UPR

7 May 2015

Statement delivered by H.E. Ms Filloreta KODRA

Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Albania warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Bulgaria and congratulates them for the presentation of their national report today.

We commend the significant progress made by Bulgaria on the implementation of the first UPR Cycle recommendations in particular the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism of Human Rights and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination.

Albania welcomes the efforts of the Bulgarian Government in identifying Human Rights priority areas where additional efforts are required such as: further development of the ethnic and religious tolerance, including the integration of Roma and other communities and the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees.

Albania would like to offer the following **recommendation** to Bulgaria:

1. Take all necessary legal measures for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the CESCR and Optional Protocol of CED.
2. Continue its efforts in carrying out various programs for promoting gender equality, combating negative stereotypes about women and their social role, including for the implementation of the "Female Leaders in Security and Defense" project.

We wish Bulgaria a successful review session.

Thank you Mr. President