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REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
GJENEVË

PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
GENEVA

**Universal Periodic Review Mechanism  
25th session**

**Intervention of Albania on the Second Cycle of the UPR review of  
Greece**

**03 May 2016**

**Check against delivery**

Mr. President,

The Albanian delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to the members of the Greek delegation and congratulate them on presenting their UPR report today before the Council.

Albania would like to commend the Greek Government for its efforts on implementing the recommendations made during the first cycle of the UPR, whereas we fully acknowledge the extra burden caused by financial and economic crisis in this direction.

We are very pleased by the expressed commitment of the Greek Government to focus its work in the next coming years toward the mitigation of the negative results of the economic crisis affecting mainly the most disadvantaged groups of the population, as well in combatting racism, hate crimes and hate speech, including through the establishment of the National Board against Racism and Intolerance, which will develop a comprehensive national strategy in this area.

While encouraging the Greek Government to accelerate its efforts in adequately addressing the challenges originating from economic and migrant crisis, Albania would like to provide the following recommendations:

- 1- Ratify the ICRMW and revise the national laws and regulations to ensure full protection against forced labour for all categories of workers, and ensure effective oversight of labour conditions.
- 2- Take meaningful steps to guarantee in practice the equal and effective enjoyment of culture, profession and practice of religion and use of language by all persons, including those claiming to belong to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities.
- 3- Improve the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers, Roma population and other marginalized group by law enforcement officials. Establish an independent mechanism for the investigation of allegations of torture and other forms of ill-treatment by police officers in order to ensure that police detention remains subject to rigid time limits and judicial review by a court.

Once again, Albania would like to commend the Greek Government for the overall progress achieved so far and wish for a successful review session.

Thank you!

BLERINA ZOTO *BZOTO*  
COUNSELLOR