**Statement by Romania**

**The 43nd session of the UPR Working Group: Review of the Republic of Serbia**

**May 10, 2023**

Romania welcomes the Republic of Serbia’s delegation and wishes it a successful outcome of the UPR.

We have taken positive note of the efforts made towards improving the situation of persons belonging to national minorities. We welcome the inclusion of the representatives of the national minorities in the preparations of the October 2022 census, as well as the holding of new elections for the National Minority Councils, in November 2022; their proper functioning and independence remains important.

Having in mind Serbia’s commitment towards its international obligations in the field and the challenges to which policies must respond, we would like to constructively recommend Serbia to:

Ensure the consistent, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the legislation for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, throughout the entire territory of Serbia and continue the efforts towards improving the conditions for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their own culture, to benefit from adequate representation in the public administration and judiciary and to have access to education, religious service and media in their own languages, throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Thank you!