*UPR 43: Session of the UPR Working Group*

*Statement at UPR of Serbia*

**Wednesday 10 May 2023, 09:00 – 12:30**

Albania welcomes the delegation of Serbia. We extend our condolences for the tragic shootings that claimed so many innocent lives last week in Serbia.

Despite efforts so far in the protection of human rights, we encourage Serbia to do more, especially in the protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities in the country. Contrary to the national report (reference to para 21, 129, 130), the Republic of Kosovo is an independent and sovereign country that protects and guarantees the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its people.

Albania would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take the necessary steps to ensure equal representation of persons belonging to national minorities and to promote their representation in political institutions at the national and local levels, as well as in socio-economic spheres.
2. Monitor and take the necessary measures to tackle and combat the use of discriminatory language and hate speech against persons belonging to national minorities.
3. Promote media pluralism and transparency of media ownership.
4. Increase efforts to investigate the role of suspected senior-level perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; establish comprehensive mechanisms to afford reparations to all victims, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and ensure that State officials respect court decisions.

We wish the delegation of Serbia a successful review.