Greetings ladies and gentlemen, honoured guests of the audience,

Within the referenced time period, Romania has managed to consolidate the auxiliary system for combating and prevention of discrimination, which was based on three sources of law, stemming from the conventions and treatises of the United Nations, those of the European Council, and, of course, those coming from Romania status as a member of the European Union.

In terms of prevention, Romania has placed great importance on the training of a key socio-professional category, of any society, such as judges, prosecutors and law enforcement, as well as public service workers and professors, recognizing their value in respecting and implementation of the principles of equality.

These ongoing training sessions were used in conjunction with a series of public awareness campaigns, stressing the importance of the principle of equality.

Regarding the combating of discrimination, Romania has been through a testing of its’ legal and institutional systems, through cases which were solved in the courtrooms. This was a test in the sense that we looked at whether the legal system interpreted the principle of nondiscrimination in accordance with international norms, when dealing with possible cases of discrimination. This timeframe for the test shows us that the judicial system has gained substantial knowledge in this field and discrimination cases are treated in accordance with international standards.

The number of cases of possible discrimination signaled, has risen in this timeframe, however, this still means we have a lot of work, in order to improve the number of discrimination cases reported.

Of course, we do not have a prefect system, it can and should be improved upon. We admit to a series of challenges regarding the insurance of the non-discrimination principle, for a number of social categories, such as ethnic minorities, here we must mention the difficulties assuring fair and equal treatment to members of the Roma ethnicity, or the challenges in the protection of disabled persosns rights’, or those of the LGBT sexual minority community and even the principle of equality between women and men.

All of these are challenges still present and remain important issues for the foreseeable future.

However, in the referenced timeframe, Romania has proven that it benefits from an efficient legislative frame and functional institutional framework which is accessible to any victim of discrimination, in order to obtain efficient, dissuasive measures which are also proportional to the damages incurred, be they material or moral.

As proof of this, we have the number of cases solved internally and rising quality of the judicial process in the established timeframe. There are still challenges regarding the implementation of the new national anti-discrimination strategy, through which we attempt the consolidation of this system of combating and prevention of discrimination and maintaining the high standard of efficiency in implementation of this public policy.

I thank you for your attention and eagerly await your questions.