***Time allocated: 90 sec***

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**29th Session: Serbia**

**Statement by Turkey**

**24 January 2017**

Mr. President,

Turkey warmly welcomes the Serbian delegation and thanks them for their comprehensive national report.

We follow and appreciate positive steps taken by the Serbian government in the field of human rights.

We welcome the adoption of the Action Plan for the Exercise of the Rights of National Minorities on March 3, 2016. We appreciate that this Action Plan stipulates greater participation of national minorities in the Government, the use of script and rights in the fields of education and culture.

We commend the Serbian government for the adoption of a programme of allocation of funds from the Budget’s Fund for National Minorities at the session of the Council for National Minorities held on May 23, 2017, which stipulates that information in national minority languages is a priority field to be financed from the aforementioned Budget in 2017.

We recognize the work carried out by the Serbian Government on the accountability of war crimes, and to this end, we welcome the adoption of the National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes for the period 2016-2020, as well as the appointment of a new War Crimes Prosecutor on May 15,2017 by the Serbian National Assembly.

We wish Serbia all success in its UPR.