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| MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM I  REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  GJENEVË | PERMANENT MISSION OF  THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  GENEVA |

**Universal Periodic Review**

**29th**

**Session**

**(15 – 26 January 2018)**

**Albania Intervention on the Third Cycle of the UPR of Serbia**

**Geneva, 24th of January 2018**

**-Check against delivery-**

Mr. President,

Albania welcomes the distinguished delegation of Serbia for their comprehensive national report presented today.

We commend Serbia for the ratification of a significant international human rights instruments since the second cycle of UPR including Istanbul Convention.

Albania welcomes the reform of domestic legal framework with a view to strengthen institutional capacities, media freedoms and to improve the respect for human rights.

While praising the amendments made by Government of Serbia to the legislation related to national minorities, we would like to see them implemented on the ground, such as respecting the right of representation in all levels of administration, encouraging their economic development, and full access to education in their native language, thus combating *de facto* any discrimination.

Albania would like to make the following recommendations:

* To consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
* To develop educational materials that promote pluralism in order to combat ethnic polarization and ethnic discrimination;
* To initiate a vetting process to identify all government officials who had allegedly been involved in the commission of war crimes;
* To take further measures to overcome the prevailing discrimination against Roma in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

In conclusion, Albania would like to wish to the delegation of Serbia a very successful review.

Thank you,