**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**32nd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, 21 January – 1 February 2019**

**Intervention of the Republic of Albania**

**On the UPR of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

**24 January 2019 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Mr. President,

Albania warmly welcomes the delegation to the third UPR cycle. We commend the country for its engagement and constructive cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, for the continued improvement of the national normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, and for the efforts to implement the recommendations of the second UPR cycle.

We note with appreciation that the National Report refers to the full implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement as a strategic priority. Albania recommends that the Government intensify efforts to fully implement the Ohrid Framework Agreement, as a guarantee to build a democratic, functioning, multi-ethnic society, firmly based on the rule of law. We particularly urge the Government to further efforts for the promotion of inclusive education, inter-ethnic cooperation and tolerance in schools.

We commend the country for the ratification of the Council of Europe “Istanbul Convention” and welcome the plans for the Convention’s implementation. We recommend that in enforcing the Law on Prevention of and Protection against Domestic Violence, particular attention is paid to providing adequate support to victims of domestic violence.

We welcome the steps taken by the authorities regarding the Law on the Use of Languages and look forward to its swift implementation.

Finally, we wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Macedonian authorities on the Prespa Agreement of June 2018. We wish the delegation a successful review and look forward to addressing our neighbor with its agreed constitutional name.

Thank you, Mr. President.