Statement by Mr. Reza Dehghani

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Review of Albania

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحیم

**Mr. President,**

We welcome the delegation of Albania to this meeting. My delegation listened carefully to Albania’s presentation of its national report.

We take this opportunity to underline the critical responsibility of all States to counter acts of terrorism, including by not allowing their territories to be used as safe haven for terrorists. Acts of terrorism truly violate the most basic human rights and humanitarian law and as such States are under very established legal obligation either to extradite or to prosecute the alleged terrorists.

That said, we reiterate our deep concern over the continuing abuse of Albania’s land and sovereignty by certain notorious terrorist entity called MKO which has killed close to 20000 innocent Iranians, and acted as accomplice in Saddam’s regime’s atrocities against Iraqi people. This infamous cult has been engaging in a massive and systematic abuse of human rights of its own members in the camps in Albania. I refer you all to an extremely informative, though highly disturbing, report in German magazine Der Spigel on 15 February 2019 to see a glimpse of horrific tortures and psychological trauma the members of the group are subjected to.

We also encourage everyone to consult a similar report in Foreign Policy magazine dated27 April 2019 revealing the outrageous attempt by this terrorist entity to meddle in internal elections of some EU countries.

While we struggle to understand the reason why Albania is tarnishing its image and compromising its own security by providing refuge to such a dangerous terrorist group, and urge the authorities to cease that practice, we recommend Albania:

1. To comply with its international obligation to combat terrorism by stopping the provision of safe haven to MKO;
2. To end impunity for acts of terrorism committed by MKO’s members and to bring them to justice by either extraditing or prosecuting the culprits;
3. To investigate serious and systematic violation of human rights by MKO against its own members, in particular women;
4. To take urgent measures to support those who have managed to free themselves from the horrible camps; the defects are under regular harassment and threats and are not allowed to leave Albania;
5. To take concrete measures to remedy the grievances of the respectable people of Manez, Durres County, who are inflicted with the scourge of a terrorist cult in their previously peaceful locality?

**I thank you**