**UPR 33rd Session**

**(Geneva, 6-17 May 2019)**

**Review of Albania**

**Statement by Greece**

Thank you Mr. President,

Greece would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Albania. We appreciate the country's efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2"'\* cycle and welcome positive developments with regard to the vetting process of the judiciary in Albania.

While expressing its concern over the police operation of removal of bilingual road signs bearing place names in the Municipality of Finiq, which took place just two days ago, Greece recommends that Albania:

1. Revise the Law on National Minorities and enact implementing legislation so that the right to self-identification is not curtailed by the use of civil registry data with regard to ethnicity.

2. Ensure that the law on the 2020 census does not reintroduce a fine for self-identification statements not corresponding with civil registry data and address relevant concerns of Albania’s minorities through an information campaign.

3. Apply the 20% threshold for the use of - and education in - the minority language to the smaller local communities instead of the enlarged, since 2014, Municipalities.

4. Revise the 2015 legislation on Strategic Investments so that “public interest” is defined in a more restrictive manner which does not legitimize expropriation for commercial purposes.

5. Allow for the registration of property titles of the rightful landowners who are members of national minorities.

6. Increase resources to independent authorities, especially to the Office of the People's Advocate

Greece wishes to Albania all success in the implementation of the recommendations they will receive today.

Thank you.