**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**35 session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, 20 - 31 January 2020**

**Intervention of the Republic of Albania**

**on the UPR of Spain**

**22 January 2020**

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Madam President,

Albania welcomes the distinguished delegation of Spain and thanks it for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

We congratulate Spain for the efforts to combat statelessness by acceding to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961), as well as for the overall cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and institutions.

Albania commends the improvements in domestic legislation regarding protection of the rights of women and children, fighting violence against women and girls and enhancing gender equality.

We encourage the implementation of the third strategic plan (2019-2023) for children and adolescents.

We also congratulate Spain for looking at the implementation of the received recommendations through the SDGs lens.

Albania makes the following recommendations:

1. Continue efforts related to discrimination against Roma and *Gitano*populations, in particular with regard to employment, housing, health and education.
2. Take the steps necessary for bringing criminal legislation applicable to minors into line with international standards.
3. Continue efforts to fight trafficking in persons, from investigation, prosecution and punishment for acts of trafficking, to redress for victims.

We wish Spain a successful review.

Thank you.