

Madame Moderator, Excellencies

as has clearly been reminded by the honorable introducers, Freedom of religion is fundamentally linked to the other basic human rights.

This right entails a collective dimension, which is essential to enjoy this right itself. Because of this Legal Personality is fundamental, it being the necessary condition that allows the religious communities to act as a body.

Overly long registration processes, and disproportionately onerous registration requirements are among the principal issues in this regard.

All of the difficulties on the field of the recognition of Legal Personality hurt the individual believers and the communities to which they belong. But society suffers too when churches and other communities are unable to provide hospitals, orphanages, schools or just a place for broken people to meet.

Transparent systems which respect national constitutional orders should be the norm in which the aim is to best facilitate the activities of religious communities rather than to restrict and monitor them.

Participating States should respect these obligations and ensure any registration systems are quick, transparent, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory.

Fostering Freedom of Religion brings good consequences, for all, for each, not only the believers.

Thank you for your attention.