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MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM
I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
NDËRKOMBËTARE
VJENË

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO
THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

Albanian Response to the 2018 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Session 8: Tolerance and non-discrimination, including rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism

**As delivered by Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Igli Hasani,
to the HDIM, Warsaw
September 14, 2018**

Thank you Chair,

Albania attaches great importance to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. We consider the national minorities living in Albania as precious value of our society, which has been traditionally characterized by harmony, coexistence and tolerance. The government of Albania is committed to fulfil the international obligations for the respect and protection of human rights and minorities, in accordance with international obligations. Albania has ratified several conventions on human rights as well as the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe “for the Protection of National Minorities”.

A year from today, Albania adopted a new law on Minorities, which now on constitutes a central element of our progress in reinforcing the protection of human rights, as one of the main priorities for the opening of accession negotiations with the European Union.

The law provides in more details what is mandated also in the Albanian Constitution: the prohibition of discrimination, freedom of association and the right to representation, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and information; participation in public,

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cultural, social and economic life; the preservation of cultural identity, the right to education in the language of national minority, the use of minority language and many other aspects.

Nine are the minorities recognized in Albania by the actual legal framework: Greek, Serbian, Bulgarian, Montenegrin, Bosniak, Macedonian, Aromanian, Roma and Balkan Egyptians.

This new legal framework was made possible in full involvement of representatives of the minorities associations, experts, academics and international organizations dealing with human and minority rights. This Law on Minorities was drafted in full collaboration with the office of High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Albania believes that minorities are and will be a societal and cultural richness of our country. We will continue to make all citizens of our country feel free and represented in every aspect.

Thank you.