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

Albanian Response to the 2018 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Opening Plenary Session

**As delivered by Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Igli Hasani,
to the HDIM, Warsaw
September 16, 2019**

Thank you Madam Chair,

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues and Representatives of Civil Society,

I would like to join other delegations in congratulating the Slovak Chairmanship and ODIHR for organizing this year's HDIM in difficult circumstances and within very limited time constraints. We also thank the Polish government for their splendid hospitality and for their kindness in hosting this annual meeting.

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is imperative and an important setting to exchange best practices, ideas and lessons learned in key topics such as democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination, just to list a few.

Albania highly values the outstanding cooperation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and other OSCE's autonomous institutions as they play a significant role in helping, assisting and supporting OSCE participating States in committing to the democratic principles and fundamental freedoms that constitute the cornerstones of our societies.

Albania remains committed to the promotion protection and enforcement of human rights. At home, the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 and the other sectorial strategies are fully in line with Agenda 2030, aiming to promote the principle of equality and non-discrimination. State and independent institutions are working intensively to promote gender equality and the rights of vulnerable groups, including children, minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTI, and the elderly, in order to ensure their active participation in society.

Special attention has been attached to the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality. Participation of women in public life and policy making is exemplary, and I believe a good example for our region.

Albania considers civil society an essential part in fulfilling our joint Human Dimension commitments. In that respect, we will continue to work with the OSCE Secretariat, respective governments and civil society groups across the region to promote respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms. In our view, dialogue and trust among government and non-government actors, are fundamental in addressing current and future challenges in the OSCE region.

During 2020 Chairmanship of the Organization, Albania aims to continue the good work of the Italian and Slovak Chairmanships and also bring forward many crucial issues related to the agenda of the third dimension of the OSCE and supporting the budgets, mandates and autonomy of ODIHR and OSCE institutions.

The Albanian Chairmanship 2020 will continue to work for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In times, when racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and discrimination remain key challenges for our common security and welfare of our people, we should remain firm in delivering concrete results to the implementation of human dimensions commitments.

We will continue to dedicate efforts and resources to the fight against any kind of discrimination based on ethnic, religious, cultural, racial or linguistic and promote tolerance in order to foster the security in the OSCE region. Freedom of the media and safety of journalists will be high on our agenda for next year.

The engagement of youth, women and civil society in decision-making and in contributing to peace, dialogue, justice and peaceful coexistence, trust and reconciliation will continue to be among the priorities of the third dimension.

In concluding, let me reiterate Albanian full support to the work of three autonomous institutions, ODIHR, RFoM and HCNM.

We are looking forward to fruitful discussions during these two weeks of HDIM.

Thank you.