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OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities  
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Session I

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Thank you very much Madame Moderator,

I am representing the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece whose number is around 150000. The legal status of this Minority was established by the Peace Treaty of Lausanne and other international instruments concerning human and minority rights that Greece has signed and ratified.

Recalling that tolerance and non-discrimination rank high among the priorities of the OSCE and Participating States have repeatedly expressed concerns about manifestations of racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance,

Recalling that the Copenhagen Document constitutes a breakthrough in international standard-setting on national minority issues,

We call upon the Greek State to:

Respect the collective usage of individual right to self-identification and recognise the existence of a Turkish Minority in Greece.

Ratify without delay and any reservations the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Take immediate measures for the rectification of the consequences arising from the deprivation of the Greek citizenship code for all persons concerned, especially ethnic Turks. Since the implementation of this Article was a clear example of ethnic cleansing or a cultural genocide. Around 60.000 Turks of Western Thrace lost their Greek citizenship with its implementation.

Respect and ensure the right to peaceful assembly and association of the Turkish Minority. A very recent example of the Greek violation of this right was practiced two weeks ago in Xanthi where the Turkish Minority constitutes 45% of the city population. The local administration did not give permission to the Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association to organize a charity bazaar on the ground that this Association has a lot of members and there will be a crowd in the city centre.

Respect and ensure the full implementation of the provisions of the Copenhagen Document that She has signed and ratified.

Thank you for your attention.  
Ms. Pervin Chairoula