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Statement for Working Session 13: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination II
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My name is Fatima Djalo and I serve as Communications Director for *FATIMA – The Society for Protection of Children of African Origin in the Republic of Moldova*. Our organization continues to contribute important community services in Chisinau, including free English courses for children, facilitating trainings on hate crime, convening summer camps for children, reuniting children with parents abroad, supporting single mother family integration, document processing assistance, as well as convening sporting events to bring together diverse communities to combat racism and discrimination. Like similar organizations in neighboring countries, we have faced challenges in finding resources to provide our services to populations in need in Moldova. Governments must create stronger partnerships to provide in-kind resources for organizations working with underserved populations, particularly when other resources for those populations do not exist.

In 2012, I participated in a workshop on the margins of Human Dimension Implementation Meeting for activists of African descent from throughout the OSCE region. It was clear from our discussion that organizations West of Vienna have found greater success in government cooperation and recognition in their countries. The post-Soviet space has a history of educational exchanges with Africa, yet increases in diversity in our region often go unrecognized. Governments in the post-Soviet space should work to recognize the increasing diversity of their populations and their rights to lead safe and productive lives. Next year will mark the beginning of the United Nations International Decade of People of African Descent. I hope that future chairmanships of the OSCE, beginning with Serbia, will find ways to commemorate this initiative through concrete projects that serve people of African descent in the OSCE region.

We must come together to overcome discrimination in all forms. I applaud the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Unit of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for convening a workshop in June of this year with the Office of the Ombudsman in Chisinau to address hate crimes¹. Similar trainings should be conducted throughout the post-Soviet space and with government officials beyond ombudsman offices. Government officials in high-ranking positions down to police officers in our communities must be trained to recognize discrimination and hate crime in all forms. I ask the Ombudsman of Moldova to take a leadership role in carrying on the important lessons of the June training.

¹ OSCE/ODIHR provides training for Moldova's Ombudsman Office on addressing and reporting hate crimes
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/119639>