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**Statement by Romania at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
Vienna, 29-30 October 2015**

**SESSION III: National minorities in inter-State relations and *The Bolzano/Bozen
Recommendations***

Mr. Moderator,

Following the references made by the distinguished introducer Dr. Emma Lantschner on the inter-state dialogue and inter-state frameworks as means for promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, we would like to bring into the discussions Romania's experience in this matter.

Romania concluded bilateral agreements that have provisions on national minorities or that exclusively regulate the issue of national minorities with its neighbours where the Romanian minority lives (Serbia, Ukraine, Hungary) as well as with some states that have a kin minority living in Romania (for example Germany). The implementation of these agreements is supervised by joint commissions. Thus the Romanian experience of dialogue on the basis of these treaties is long and comprehensive. Here are some of the conclusions we could draw from our experience of dialogue:

- States have the interest to engage into dialogue within the institutional framework created by the international treaty, in order to legitimize requests for protecting the rights of persons belonging to their kin minorities and to coherently follow measures adopted by the home state in their favour and sanction possible failures and set back.
- The aim of the dialogue is to ensure a high level of protection – on substance – for persons belonging to national minorities through the recommendations addressed to governments. Such recommendations are not acceptable should they affect the integration of persons belonging to national minorities in the societies where they live or should they impose (even indirectly) solutions aimed at ethnical segregation (whatever the formula for such segregation). Such recommendations would affect the good governance options states are free to promote, as sovereigns.
- The special interest of the kin state circumscribed to the cultural and education area, generates requests addressed to the home state to promote those measures aimed at the proper learning of the mother tongue, by improving the education process and the institutional system, so that the language and the cultural values could be inherited by future generations.
- The state engaged in such dialogue must have a coherent approach, in order to be credible and to prove the legitimacy of its requests (in the interest of the persons belonging to national minorities themselves). In other words, the state should prove the same interest in promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities living on its territory as in promoting the rights of persons belonging to its kin minority.

- The work of joint commissions contributes to the strengthening of the systems for the protection of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as to a better awareness and deep understanding of the culture they represent. The active involvement of national minorities' representatives plays a role in this respect.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.