



Right to Reply Delegation of Hungary

Working Session 5: Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life HDIM, 13. September 2017. Warsaw

In my national capacity, let me react to the concerns raised by the distinguished Delegation of the United States in connection with the parliamentary representation of the Roma community.

The parliamentary election held in 2014 was the first time national minorities had the possibility to set up a national list, and send a deputy to the Parliament with a preferential threshold (2% for the minority lists, as opposed to the 5% required for political parties). Unfortunately, none of the thirteen - officially recognized - minority groups managed to reach this threshold, but based on law, all of them were allowed to send a spokesperson to the Parliament, vested with all the rights and privileges regular MPs have – except voting rights. The minority list was set up by minority self-governments. All minorities have the right to establish self-governments.

On secrecy of vote: I would like to highlight that in our system, each voter has two ballots: one to cast for an individual candidate, and one and another, either for a list set up by a political party, or for a list of a national minority group. Each and every voter is able to choose for which of the two types of lists they would like to vote. We think this does not violate the secrecy of vote, but secures the equality of votes.