



STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ANDORRA

Session II: Education and Awareness-Raising to Prevent Intolerance and Discrimination

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Vienna, 15 April 2016

Firstly, allow me to express my gratitude to the Chairman-in-office and to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for organizing and devoting this meeting to such a timely and pertinent issue.

Andorra joins previous speakers in underlining that education is an essential component to promote tolerance and no-discrimination.

The Government of Andorra has set education as one of its priorities at national and multilateral level, guided by the principle that young people are the asset of our societies. Education is seen as an investment, not an expense. It is a catalyst to build a community with values that respects the diversity, ensures equality of opportunities and inclusion. It is the most efficient instrument at long-term to combat intolerance and discrimination and guarantees the cohesion of our societies.

Andorran is a highly diverse and multicultural society, half of the population is Andorran and the rest belong to more than a hundred nationalities. The educational model is built around three different systems: the Andorran, the French and the Spanish; public, free of charge and free of choice. It is a multilingual system, being almost all students fluent in Catalan, French and Spanish.

Superposition among the three systems takes place through promotion of joint initiatives in order to create synergies and maximize benefits. As an example, allow me to mention the annually event: "Humanites Day", where all students from primary to high school of the three systems attend a conference and work together in workshops. This year, Ms. Caddy Adzuba, journalist and activist for women's and children rights and press freedom in Congo, was invited to work with students on the topic of human rights and press freedom in a globalized world.

At multilateral level, Andorra set as a priority during its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2012-2013 the "education for democratic citizenship and human rights"; issue that has remained on the agenda with the successive chairmanships.

Due to the importance given to education and the specificities mentioned, UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon invited Andorra in 2014 to become one of the champion countries of the Global Education First Initiative. The initiative has, among its priorities, the promotion of the “Global citizenship” and states that education must be transformative and bring shared values to life.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Andorra’s support to all kind of initiatives at the international arena aimed at promoting tolerance and non-discrimination through education and we stand ready to share experiences and to learn from others in this field.

Thank you.