



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Adoption of UPR Outcomes

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Albania



STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of **Albania** reasserts its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, implementing strategic reforms and adopting specific measures in conformity with those recommendations formulated during the 47th UPR cycle. Through this exercise, Albania received many recommendations covering a large panoply of areas of life, from judicial reform to combating discrimination, including the protection of minorities, the promotion of the rights of women and children. Albania reiterates its complete commitment to following up and implementing the recommendations formulated in November 2024.

In total, **253 recommendations** were made during the dialogue. Albania has examined all those recommendations made in line with the provisions of paragraphs 27 and 32 of the Annex to UNHRC resolution 5/1 and paragraph 16 of the Annex to UNHRC resolution 16/21. In total, of the 253 recommendations received, **239 recommendations have enjoyed Albania's support and 14 have been noted.**

Turning to international commitments and legislative reforms, here Albania has taken significant measures to **ratify and accede to different international instruments**. Albania has approved the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the ratification of amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC on the Crime of Aggression. In parallel, efforts are underway to harmonise national legislation with international standards, including through revising the Penal Code and implementing new national strategies. These commitments demonstrate its desire to guarantee better protection of fundamental rights.



Turning to the **reform of the judicial system and combating corruption**, Albania reiterates its commitment to independent, impartial and effective judicial systems in the context of its adhesion to the European Union. Albania has achieved significant progress in judicial reforms in adopting a new judicial map and finalising the process of verifying magistrates. The Government has adopted an Intersectoral Strategy for Justice 2024-2030, aiming to bolster the rule of law and improve access to justice.

Combating corruption remains a national priority. Measures have been adopted to bolster transparency in public administration, in particular through new methodologies to prevent corruption in drafting laws and increased support to the specialised institutions such as the Special Structure Against Corruption and Organised Crime. The creation of an ad hoc parliamentary commission to increase reforms of governance and the rule of law demonstrates the commitment of our country to eradicate impunity and to ensure transparency at increased levels within public institutions. Albania's commitment in favour of transparency in governance and to combating corruption can be seen through structural reforms, strengthening the legislative framework and increased cooperation with the relevant international bodies.

Turning to the promotion of **equality and non-discrimination**, Albania has made several commitments to guarantee the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups. Albania has established targeted programmes, including the National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians, guaranteeing better access to education, employment and housing. The country has committed itself to strengthening application of laws against discrimination and hate speech, guaranteeing effective judicial proceedings against these acts, to promoting the **rights of persons with disabilities** and improving the **protection of minorities** and the mechanisms for this.

Albania announces today that 12 acts of secondary legislation to apply the specific law on **minorities** have been adopted by the Government of Albania. All legislative measures that might undermine the enjoyment of identity for those persons belonging to minorities in Albania have now been eradicated. The adoption of three decisions, numbers 843, 844 and 845 of 26 December 2024 on the identification of persons belonging to national minorities on the use of language and recognition, have thus opened up the path towards the full application of the law on minorities in our country.

As regards the **LGBTI+ community**, the Government of Albania has approved recommendations to recognise same-sex unions and improve legal protection against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Moreover, the adoption of measures against hate speech and crimes motivated by discrimination represent major progress on the protection of women and combating gender-based violence. **Combating violence against women** is being done through strengthening our legal and institutional framework, pursuing application of our National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2030. Increased efforts have been made to protect victims of domestic violence, including specialised centres and support mechanisms, which have been strengthened. Commitments have been undertaken to criminalise femicide and to improve data collection on violence against



women. To amend the Penal Code to align the definition of rape with international standards, emphasising the concept of consent and bolstering support services for victims, including increasing the number of shelters and improving access to free legal assistance.

On **child protection and combating early marriage**, Albania reiterates its commitment to protect the rights of the child and have supported several recommendations aiming to eradicate any exception permitting marriage before the age of 18, strengthening protection against violence and exploitation of children, in particular through the National Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2021-2026, and finally improving access to inclusive, high-quality education, in particular for children from minorities.

Turning to **detention conditions and reforming the prison system**, Albania has approved recommendations aiming to improve penitentiary infrastructure to reduce prison overcrowding and to ensure detention conditions which are in line with international standards, and to establish alternatives to recharge detention to limit the length of detention before a court decision.

On **freedom of expression and protection of journalists**, Albania has adopted ambitious policies as regards freedom of expression and protection of journalists, aligning our legislation with European standards and establishing independent monitoring mechanisms to guarantee the safety and independence of the media. Specifically, Albania has committed itself to bolstering freedom of media and protection for journalists from intimidation and attacks and bringing its national legislation into line with the European Directive against Abusive Proceedings and to increase transparency and property of media.

On **combating human trafficking**, the Albanian Government has adopted measures to combat trafficking in human beings through increased resources dedicated to prevention, victim protection, and the prosecution of those responsible. In particular, it has stepped up actions contained in its National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings from 2024 to 2025 and it has also strengthened inter-institutional cooperation to prevent these crimes and to bring perpetrators to justice in a more effective manner.

With regard to the protection of **migrants and asylum seekers**, Albania has approved several recommendations to guarantee the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees, in particular through ensuring their integration and aligning asylum procedures with international standards.

On its commitment to **sustainable development** and the protection of the environment, Albania has taken measures to improve its legal framework for climate change, encouraging innovation in renewable energies, and guaranteeing the right to a clean and sustainable environment.

To conclude, Albania remains resolute in its desire to pursue all efforts to respect human rights and to implement the recommendations of the UPR. Albania reiterates its complete commitment to implementing recommendations formulated in November 2024. However, its success will hinge upon the effective implementation of reforms adopted and mobilising the necessary resources. The government of Albania commits itself to ensuring rigorous follow-up and to **cooperate with civil society and international partners** to guarantee tangible progress which is sustainable in promoting and protecting fundamental rights.



UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES

China welcomes Albania's constructive participation in the fourth round of UPR. It notes Albania's progress in the field of human rights and the measures taken to combat discrimination and violence against women, demonstrating a positive attitude towards gender equality. However, China is concerned about racism, hate speech, human trafficking, and other issues in Albania. It hopes that Albania will take effective measures to fight racism and hate speech and ensure that refugees and immigrants are integrated into society without discrimination. It will improve the social security system to effectively protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, women, and children. China thanks Albania for accepting China's recommendations and wishes Albania success in promoting and protecting human rights.

Cuba duly commends Albania for its very active involvement and participation in the UPR, highlighting that Albania has accepted 239 recommendations of the 253 received, which demonstrates political determination and will to identify national challenges and to work to resolve the same. Cuba is pleased that the four recommendations respectfully and constructively put by Cuba were accepted by Albania and trusts that they will be implemented. Cuba underscores the importance of continuing to take steps in Albania to reduce poverty and to ensure that the social security law is fully implemented, as well as to take steps to continue to ensure the equal participation of women in political and public life in Albania. It wishes Albania every success in the implementations of the accepted recommendations and supports the adoption of the report.

Ghana congratulates the delegation of Albania for successfully completing its review exercise under the fourth cycle of the UPR and commends its support to 239 recommendations, including those made by Ghana on the ratification of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the development of targeted support groups, programmes for vulnerable groups, particularly migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Ghana is pleased to serve as a Troika member for the UPR exercise and expresses confidence that Albania will comply with its human rights obligations. In conclusion, Ghana affirms its support for Albania and wishes them every success in implementing the accepted recommendations.

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Albania for the adoption of the UPR Working Group's report on its fourth UPR, held on 4 November 2024. The review saw substantive participation, with 79 delegations taking the floor and making a total of 253 recommendations. India appreciates the constructive engagement of the delegation of Albania during the entire review, which reflects their commitment to the UPR process. India appreciates that as many as 239 recommendations have been accepted by Albania, including all three recommendations made by us. While recommending the adoption of their UPR report, India congratulates the delegation of Albania on a successful review and wishes them success in their efforts towards implementing the accepted recommendations.

Iran stresses that while Albania's engagement in the UPR mechanism highlights the universality of this process, significant concerns persist regarding the country's human rights record. The ongoing occurrence of human rights violations, coupled with insufficient measures to address them, raises doubts about Albania's full commitment to its international obligations. Increased efforts are crucial to combat and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, and related intolerance,



including the alarming spread of hate speech, concrete and timely actions are necessary to ensure full compliance with international human rights standards. Furthermore, in line with international counterterrorism obligations, it is imperative to put an end to the presence and protection of terrorist groups in Albania. Providing safe harbour to these notorious terrorist organisations undermines collective security affairs and contradicts the principles of the international community. Iran urges Albania to take meaningful steps toward genuine cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

The **Maldives** compliments Albania's commitment to the UPR process and commends the Government for accepting the majority of the recommendations it received, including two recommendations made by the Maldives. The latter wishes the Government of Albania success in the implementation of the accepted recommendations and requests the Council to adopt the UPR Outcome Report of Albania by consensus.

Morocco commends Albania for its constructive engagement in the UPR process and its unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. It particularly welcomes Albania's decision to accept all the recommendations made by Morocco, reflecting its dedication to reinforcing key institutional and legal frameworks. It appreciates its commitment to increasing budgetary resources for the ombudsman, its continued efforts in implementing the Intersectoral Strategy for Justice 2021-2025 and its Action Plan, and the steps taken to enhance the infrastructure and the human and financial resources allocated to referral mechanisms for cases of violence against women and girls. Morocco reaffirms its full support for Albania's endeavours in implementing the accepted recommendations and wishes the Albanian authorities full success for the cycle of the UPR.

Nepal welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Albania to the adoption of the UPR outcome and thanks them for their constructive engagement with human rights mechanisms. Nepal thanks Albania for accepting both the recommendations it offered. Nepal takes positive note of the national strategy and plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nepal wishes Albania all success in implementing the accepted recommendations and supports consensual adoption of the UPR outcome report.

Oman very much commends Albania for its efforts to prepare the national report, as well as its cooperation with the UPR mechanism throughout the fourth cycle. Oman recommends that the Council adopt on a consensus basis Albania's report and wishes Albania every success in the implementation of the accepted recommendations

The **Philippines** commends Albania's open and constructive approach in the UPR process with the acceptance of 239 out of 253 recommendations. In particular, it thanks Albania for accepting the recommendations presented by the Philippines, including intensifying education and awareness programmes to address patriarchal norms and customs that perpetuate gender inequalities and violence against women and girls, amending laws to remove exceptions allowing marriage for children under 18, prohibiting forced marriage, and stepping up efforts to resolve civil registration issues faced by minority populations in the interest of inclusion and equality. The Philippines fully supports the Council's adoption of the UPR Working Group report on Albania and wishes Albania all success in the implementation of accepted recommendations.



Russia notes that only two of the five Russian recommendations were accepted for implementation by Albania. Russia hopes that at the next UPR, Albania will report on measures adopted to ensure effective investigation and prosecution, including in criminal proceedings, of all cases of human trafficking, including those relating to officials who have aided and abetted the perpetration of such offences. Russia also counts on the fact that Albania will review its family code to repeal all exceptions permitting marriage before the minimum legal age and to prohibit forced marriages and to prosecute those responsible for violating this prohibition. The Russian Federation recommends adoption of the report on the fourth UPR cycle of Albania.

The **United Kingdom** welcomes the significant progress since Albania's last UPR and supports Albania's progression on justice reform to improve the integrity of its judiciary, combat corruption and tackle the influence of organised crime following the adoption of legal reforms in 2016. The UK welcomes its bilateral judicial partnership with Albania, establishing educational exchange between our judiciaries. Further, it welcomes Albania for its cooperation on criminal justice in pursuit of the protection of the state and citizens from criminal interests. The UK also welcomes the establishment of the Special Structure against Corruption and Organised Crime in 2019, which has made progress in addressing serious cases of corruption. The UK urges Albania to remain steadfast on anti-corruption, strengthening the independence of its judicial authorities to operate without undue interference or political oversight. The approval of a National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2030 to strengthen its gender equality framework is encouraging. The UK urges its full implementation. It also welcomes the creation of national shelters for survivors of domestic abuse and a reception centre for victims of human trafficking. In the year of Albania's parliamentary elections, the UK urges Albania to put into practise all outstanding OSCE recommendations for improving the conduct of elections.

Venezuela welcomes the Albanian delegation and thanks them for their presentation. Venezuela has taken note of the high degree of cooperation with the UPR, thereby reiterating Venezuela's belief that it is voluntary and not imposed mechanisms that will deliver the greatest and most beneficial results for the promotion of human rights. Venezuela very much welcomes Albania's acceptance of the four recommendations put to them by Venezuela linked to tackling corruption, promoting and protecting independent media, eradicating forms of intimidation and harassment of journalists, adopting measures to prevent human trafficking and the appointment of an ombudsperson. It urges Albania to continue strengthening those measures already implemented to date and wishes every success in the implementation of the supported recommendations.

Viet Nam thanks the delegation of Albania for its constructive engagement and congratulations on the successful convening of its UPR session on November 4, 2024. Viet Nam commends Albania for supporting most of the recommendations received, including both recommendations made by Viet Nam. The latter's recommendations call for greater transparency and greater efficiency of public services under the Digital Agenda for Albania 2022-2026 and higher accessibility and inclusion in education, ensuring equal opportunities for all, especially for marginalised communities and persons with disabilities. Viet Nam applauds Albania's commitment and continued efforts to meet its national human rights obligations and wishes the country success in implementing the accepted recommendations. Finally, Viet Nam recommends the Council to adopt the outcome of Albania's UPR review by concessions.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UN AGENCIES

UN Women delivers a statement on behalf of the UN Country Team and the Gender Group in Albania led by UN Women. It congratulates Albania on its commitments and progress in advancing human rights, including women's rights and efforts to implement previous UPR recommendations. The UN Country Team also appreciates the strong emphasis placed by Member States on gender equality and fight against gender-based violence and also other key issues for Albania, such as child rights, rights of persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups, social inclusion, health, education and justice as reflected in many of the UPR recommendations. Those recommendations are specific, comprehensive and aligned with the 2023 CEDAW and other treaty bodies concluding observations. They effectively address most gender equality and human rights issues identified as priorities for the UN Country Team, civil society organisations and the EU. Many of those issues are already integrated into Albania's relevant sectorial strategies and are considered priorities for the country's EU accession. The UPR recommendations serve as a framework for advancing gender equality and human rights in Albania. They provide strategic guidance for national stakeholders, encouraging them to align and assign sufficient resources and strengthen coordination for effective implementation. Albania can count on UN Women's and the UN Country Team's continued support for implementation.

UNFPA commends the Government of Albania on the significant efforts and work done on advancing the human rights of women, girls, men and boys. Building on the progress made, UNFPA encourages the Government of Albania to implement a comprehensive programme that promotes gender sensitivity and addresses societal norms, especially in men and boys, that contribute to gender-based inequalities. UNFPA continues to support the Government of Albania to revise the Family Code and adapt it to traffic measures to ensure zero tolerance to early, forced and child marriages to exclude any possibility of exception to the minimum legal age of 18. UNFPA will continue to support the country's efforts to develop and implement laws that prohibit prenatal sexual action and to develop programmes that raise awareness on the value of a girl child. UNFPA will continue to support the work for the amendment of the Law on Reproductive Health as well as implementing of the Health Promotion Action Plan that aims at improving sexual reproductive health rights, particularly for the marginalised women and girls, adolescents and youth at risk, thus enabling them to fully enjoy their rights and fulfil their potentials.

UN-Habitat welcomes Albania's legal and policy efforts towards adequate housing for all. Albania's social housing policy is a positive first step towards developing a robust social and public housing sector. UN-Habitat notes that this will support victims of gender-based violence who face difficulty accessing safe spaces. UN-Habitat also appreciates Albania's measures to increase emergency housing services for LGBTI+ youth. Access to adequate housing is necessary to the protection of women and LGBTI persons from situations of gender-based violence. Expanding access to adequate housing for all, UN-Habitat notes Albania's National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians in the Republic of Albania and its inclusion of housing as a priority area. Finally, UN-Habitat emphasises the importance of ensuring the equal access of all, especially women and persons at risk of marginalisation, to land and property rights, both in law and in practice. Equal access, which may require equitable measures, is essential for both women's economic empowerment and for gender equality more



broadly. In light of Albania being one of the most rapidly urbanising countries in Europe, UN-Habitat looks forward to strengthening its partnership with Albania over the next four years.

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The **Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism** stresses that states play an effective and fundamental role in countering or surviving the spread of terrorism. The dangerous and inhuman policy of some states in using terrorist groups to achieve their goals, in addition to violating many international laws and human rights, is an important aspect in the spread of terrorism. The basic principle regarding this issue is prohibition of hosting and providing safe haven for terrorists and preventing their immunity from criminal persecution. International conventions and binding resolutions of the UN Security Council have also required the states to comply with them. The Albanian Government has violated its obligations under international law and UN Security Council resolution by supporting and hosting members of the terrorist group of Mojahedin Haq, who according to numerous documents and evidence, have played a role in committing terrorist crimes and violating human rights. The action by the Albanian Government prevents the right to justice, to the truth and to compensation for the victims, a right that is now recognised by the UN as a universal human right. This action has also led to the victimisation of the Albanian Government, as evidenced by the complaints of the people of Mojahedin Haq, who are suffering from the presence of this group in the region

Action Canada for Population and Development acknowledges Albania's engagement in the UPR process and its commitment to improving labour rights and gender equality. Action Canada welcomes Albania's acceptance of the recommendations on the need to reinforce measures for the enhancement of the enjoyment of the right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work. Despite policy progress in Albania, rural women still face measured challenges. Labour rights violations persist and systematic barriers such as limited childcare, vocational training, transport and entrenched gender norms hinder their employment and economic security. Although the Government adopted a National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2023-2030, rural women remain largely excluded from the workforce and at risk of poverty. Despite commitments to gender equality, rural women in Albania receive minimal support. Social protection often misses those most in need and access to legal aid, protection from violence and financial resources remain limited. Many face economic hardship without meaningful government intervention, despite claims to inclusive progress. Action Canada calls on Albania to take concrete steps to support rural women, uphold fair labour conditions and ensure equal economic opportunities. Labour rights must be more than policy, they must be a reality for all workers. This requires enforcing labour laws, guaranteeing fair wages and safe working conditions, expanding childcare infrastructures near workplaces, rural roads and transportation coverage and investing in women's vocational training. True economic empowerment means providing women with real pathways to stability and dignity in the workforce.

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) welcomes Albania's commitment to implementing recommendations on strengthening and effectively implementing laws prohibiting prenatal sex selection, including through amendments to Islam Reproductive Health, as well as tackling the root causes of this harmful practise. Whether before or after birth, sex selective practises constitute one of the worst forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, depriving girls of their right to a future simply because they are female. The continued prevalence



of this harmful practise in Albania is signalled by the country's starkly imbalanced sex ratio at birth. It exposes a deeply disturbing culture of son preference and daughter aversion that erodes the equal dignity and worth of all women and girls, perpetuates violence and discrimination against them, and diminishes life to a utilitarian calculation. Technological advancements in prenatal diagnostics, combined with a lack of regulation on their use for sex determination, contribute to rendering this practise even more invisible by enabling ever earlier selective abortions, evading more stringent oversight. While commending Albania's ban on sex selection in the use of artificial reproductive technologies, ADF notes with concern that this prohibition does not expressly encompass abortion, including during legal gestational limits. The failure to effectively prevent and eradicate this egregious human rights violation highlights a critical gap in Albania's implementation of its international obligations. For this reason, ADF calls on Albania to revise its legislation to unequivocally prohibit all forms of prenatal sex selection at every stage, as well as to more strictly regulate the use of prenatal diagnostics to ensure that early sex determination does not enable these practises. ADF further urges Albania to intensify its efforts to confront the root causes and drivers of these grave violations through campaigns that uphold the dignity of every girl, born and unborn, and promote their equal right to live a life free from violence and discrimination.

ILGA World delivers this statement in consultation with the Alliance Against Discrimination of LGBTI in Albania and welcomes the Albanian Government's commitment to advancing LGBTI rights through the acceptance of peer accommodation. The recognition of same-sex unions and marriages, the further criminalisation of hate speech and hate crimes, the full implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and the strengthening of the National Action Plan for LGBTI Persons mark essential progress towards ensuring dignity, safety and equality for all. These commitments are not just legal frameworks. They are a promise to LGBTI people in Albania that their lives, their love, their bodies and their rights are seen and valued. ILGA World also welcomes the decision to legally prohibit non-consensual non-therapeutic surgeries on intersex children. Every child deserves to grow up free from harm, with the right to make decisions about their own body. However, it expresses deep concern that the recommendation which calls for the legal recognition of gender identity based on self-determination was noted. Transgender persons in Albania continue to face immense barriers to living authentically, barriers that strip them of dignity, access to essential services and full participation in society. As Albania moves forward, ILGA World calls on the government to ensure the full and effective implementation of accepted recommendations by allocating adequate resources and establishing clear monitoring mechanisms, to engage in meaningful dialogue on legal gender recognition, recognising that the dignity, safety and well-being of transgender people are not up for debate. They are human rights. No one should have to fight to be seen, to be respected or to be protected under the law. ILGA World remains steadfast in its commitment to working alongside national institutions and international partners to ensure that Albania fulfils its promise of equality, leaving no one behind.

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII welcomes Albania's constructive participation in the UPR process. The NGO has been present in Albania since 1999, operating through projects supporting marginalised groups. Despite efforts to protect children's rights, various forms of violence against minors persist, including corporal punishment. It urges the Government to strengthen awareness campaigns and support systems to report and prevent abusive behaviours by parents. On the right to a family, it stresses the need for policies promoting foster care with



adequate financial support. Access to education remains a challenge, especially in rural areas due to inadequate school infrastructure and limited public transportation. Additionally, many schools remain inaccessible for children with disabilities, and the number of assistant teachers is still insufficient. The NGO urges the government to invest in school facilities, improve accessibility and increase support staff to ensure truly inclusive education for all. On violence against women, it calls on Albania to strengthen protection mechanisms and expand state-run shelters and rehabilitation services, especially for women with disabilities. Homelessness is still a concern, particularly for persons with mental health conditions or those living in penal institutions. It urges Albania to extend residential facilities and ensure healthcare access for the homeless, regardless of their municipal registration. Finally, for persons with disabilities, challenges persist, including employment discrimination, lack of accessible infrastructure, and inadequate assistive technologies. The NGO calls on Albania to amend employment laws to ensure compatibility between disability pensions and work rights, and to enhance accessibility in transported public spaces. The NGO urges the Albanian Government to fully implement EPR recommendations and take action to protect the most vulnerable.

Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) welcomes the fact that Costa Rica made a couple of recommendations regarding conscientious objection provisions, not just for conscripts, but for professional soldiers and reservists, including the recommendation to Albania that it establish conscientious objection to military service for professional soldiers and reservists. We also welcome Albania's approval of the recommendation. A study by the ILO had found that even in time of peace, according to a 2014 directive of the Ministry of Defence, the employment contracts of career soldiers are six years. Within this period, they cannot resign or leave. In case of violation, they may face criminal prosecution. In practise, exceptions have been made due to diverse family reasons, but as far as is known, never on grounds of conscientious objection. CPTI calls upon Albania to amend its regulations by instituting specific procedures to allow the release, in peace and war alike, of professional members of the armed forces who have developed conscientious objections, in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in this respect. Such release must not be subject to financial or other penalties, and while it is under consideration, it should have a suspensory effect, preventing the objector from being faced with new orders to avail which would be contrary to the nature of the objection.

The **International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse** gives the floor to a 79-year-old Albanian woman, national representative of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and Executive Director of the Albanian Society for Ladies. The UPR report on Albania contains many welcome recommendations, but none to strengthen national capacity to better manage population ageing and to eliminate ageism. However, national infrastructural ageing, where available, is underdeveloped, both at national and local levels. Older persons' representation is inadequate and their voices are muted. Older women, among the greatest contributors in society, are the most affected. The Ngo welcomes the Council's current work on a resolution to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group to start drafting a legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons. The NGO calls on the Council to adopt the resolution by consensus. A convention will provide a paradigm shift, compelling governments to take real action against widespread exclusion and discrimination and include older people and their organisations in all decisions made. A convention will ensure that people age well, older women



are reviewed and respected, and they are seen as a full human rights holder. A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons will guide governments, individuals and institutions. This Convention is much needed without delay.

FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

253 Recommendations Received

239 Recommendations Supported

14 Recommendations Noted

FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

14 State Delegations

3 Inter-Governmental Organizations and UN Agencies

7 Non-Governmental Organizations