

Permanent Mission of Sweden

Thank you madam Chair.

Let me first extend the appreciation for my government convening on this first session of the Forum on Minority Issues.

At this point I will limit myself to make a couple of brief general and preliminary remarks concerning the draft recommendation. First, we welcome very much the rich and the substantial draft which provides a comprehensive platform for the discussions and we also welcome the ambitions expressed this morning that the recommendations should be as action oriented as possible in order to be a practical and useful tool for the member states and governments.

And in order to achieve this we think that the current draft might benefit from stylistic extreme lining, making recommendations clearer, and easy to identify and formulated as practical operational proposals. We believe that the [recommendations] proposed earlier by Mr. Thornberry will go in this direction.

Secondly, we note there are some references to indigenous peoples in the text and in this context as it was expressed before, today, we believe that it is important to keep a clear distinction between the recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues on the one hand and the work of the expert mechanism on Indigenous Peoples and the upcoming study on the right of indigenous people to education on the other. In order to avoid unnecessary overlapping.

And finally, I would like to reiterate the strong Swedish interest in these issues and ensure you of our continued constructive support in cooperation as we follow the further work on the recommendations of the Forum.

Thank you.