

Madam Chairman, we would like to thank the panelists who spoke today for their valuable contributions to this important forum. We wish to make a few very short remarks.

We appreciate the statement made by the Greek delegation today, we see in that statement a welcome intention to improve the situation of Turkish minority in western Thrace. We believe that minorities constitute bridges of friendship between our two countries. Turkey has also been engaged in this issue with the same philosophy, we remain open to further cooperating with Greece in this area. According to CERD reports and other publicly available documents there continued to be issues concerning a Turkish minority which need to be addressed by Greece. There is no need to enter into these issues at this meeting, all positive steps in this regard will be equally welcomed and supported by Turkey. Thank you.