

Good afternoon to one and all. We are very grateful first and foremost for this opportunity we have in this forum, which does have a very important impact and significance for minorities. My name is Mr. Bitel Cure, I represent the Association known as Miraismo and after these couple days listening to everyone so far we would like to make four recommendations and we would ask that they be considered within this forum.

Our first point is that we consider the important, that it is important for countries to make sure that everyone understands the convention which mentioned the international day for minorities and states should promote the importance of this instrument. In much the same way to institute and promote the national day for minorities.

Second point now, to promote and stimulate the exchange, international information exchange mechanism, where people can compare models and legislative strategies for the defence of the rights of minorities and to determine whether these models have been efficient or effective. In Columbia for example Senator Carlos Alberto Myana has pushed forward a law that criminalise acts of discrimination and it was approved by the Colombian government in spite of the fact that the law is a recent one we have seen some positive results where in fact some officials of the state are being tried because of acts of discrimination committed by them. It is important that minorities be taken into account not only as a part of society but that laws need to be passed to protect minorities.

My third point now, that states should acknowledge and provide a space and public means for religious minorities so that they can have access on an equal footing of conditions without any restrictions or prejudices whatsoever as regards relations and financing with states so the freedom of religion is a part of what makes us human beings.

Our last point now, it that states should not discriminate against national minorities in terms of their participation in political areas because sometimes they lose their legal XX as is the case in Columbia if they do not reach a certain number of votes, in spite of the fact that the rights are recognised by the constitution some recent laws that have been adopted have eroded this fundamental principle, we have reached a situation where a percentage limit needed to have parliamentary representation for political minorities which means that there is a loss of legal recognition of this particular movement and we believe that this constitutes discrimination.

Thank you