

Romania's statement on Item II

Dear Madam Chair.

Allow me to also congratulate you on your appointment. We will be saying a little bit more when talking about good practice later on.

However, we did feel that we needed to take the floor regarding what has been mentioned this morning. The collective aspect of minority rights as we see it, the best thing that the Declaration has done, it is recognise the rights of individuals. But there is a collective side to things which is recognised in the Covenant and has been taken up in the Declaration. But I have to say that for the main part these are individual rights. Even those who belong to a linguistic, religious or ethnic minorities. This has meant that we've been able to draft this excellent legal document that the Council of Europe representative mentioned the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The explanatory report regarding this convention mentions in the comments to articles 1 to 3 that the rights conferred on those people belonging to national minorities are individual rights. Although, there is space for a collective exercise on that regard.

Thank you.