

Human Rights Council

Forum on Minority Issues

Seventh session

25-26 November 2014

Statement relating to the project of recommendations that are presented for consideration at the Forum (hereinafter referred to as “Recommendations”).

Paragraph 4 of the Agenda for the Forum on “Enhancing Efforts to Prevent Acts of Violence and Horrific Crimes”

The participant of the training programme organized by OHCHR for the representatives of minorities,

Mr Utkir DZHABBAROV, Programme Coordinator of Spravedlivost (Justice), a human rights organization in the Jalal-Abad Oblast, Kyrgyzstan.

Good afternoon!

Dear Mr Chairman, Dear Forum participants!

For me, it is a great honour to be present at such a high level meeting where the issues of promotion and full realization of provisions, enshrined in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and other international instruments, are discussed. We are pioneering the development of standards relating to the implementation of national minority rights to whom I belong to, namely I belong to the Uzbek national minority group in Kyrgyzstan. I would like to emphasize that the right of minorities to effective participation in social life is the defining factor in conflict prevention. In spite of the fact that the recommendations are phrased in general terms, I think that they establish standards for anticipating, preventing and taking post-conflict measures in respect of minorities. Special attention should be paid to the need in establishing the opportunity to implement and attain results by means of these recommendations. In this process the representatives of minorities themselves play an important role that’s why we must bring an emphasis on education of and information sharing among the representatives about their rights with an aim to realize actual and effective participation of minorities in implementing these recommendations.

These recommendations shall give priority to the activities that are designed to clarify their role and explain that these recommendations shall be treated as specifications for international instruments in the area of human rights and agreeably national minorities can make reference to them as the source of law enforcement. Therefore, consolidation of these recommendations with

account of the proposals delivered by the Forum participants, the Resolution of the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council is critically important for minorities.

#### Recommendations

1. I think that the paragraph 14 of these recommendations shall contain a provision stipulating that anti-discrimination law shall provide for **criminal** sentencing;
2. I am drawing attention to the recommendation by the Committee against Racial Discrimination stating that states shall promote education in the mother tongue of minorities for persons belonging to the groups of ethnic minorities. 1. In view of this I suggest adding the following provision under the paragraph 18 of the recommendations: “In those countries where there is a uniform, nationwide educational assessment system as access to the higher education, it is necessary to organize testing on the language of national minorities. In case the testing on the language of national minorities exists, we must not allow its cancellation”.
3. Participation of national minorities in programmes designed to prevent conflicts plays an important role in stabilizing the situation and building peace in the region. Therefore, the paragraph 17 should contain the following provision: “participation of minorities **with account of their needs**”.
4. The paragraph 25 of the recommendations should refer to the proportional representation of national minorities in law enforcement agencies and security forces so that quotas are based on the percentage of national minorities.

Thank you for attention!