

Speaker: Thank you. Mr President. On the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UN declaration of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious linguistic minorities. The present position and treatment of minorities have not been improved in recent years. The Islamic Republic of Iran has continued to expose national minorities to serious threats, discrimination and racism. Minorities in Iran are even deprived of their fundamental right to educate in their own mother language. Mr. Special Rapporteur, the experience of Azerbaijanis in Iran shows that they find themselves turning into internally displaced people at the brink of destitution - cut off from their own cultural roots. Or they have to immigrate abroad to escape conflict, racism and other forms of discrimination. Azerbaijan women are subjected to double discrimination - being women and belonging to a minority. All the minorities - Azerbaijan, turks [inaudible], Kurds, [inaudible] are excluded from any meaningful sustainable development. They suffer from hate speech and hate crimes on social media. Their aspirations are crushed. We see increased [inaudible] tantamount to genocide. Our association expressed concern that minority issues are a low priority on the UN agenda. Now it is the time to rethink the declaration and bring it back on track. We recommend that the UN examines the current declaration and reflects on reforming it and makes the declaration topical in its programs. Thank you.