

Speaker: Mr. Chairperson. Thank you. I am [inaudible] and am representing the Attalaki Organisation. An organization working on the freedom of religion and belief and religious minority issues in Tunisia. Today we mark the declaration's 30th year and want to state that in its preamble that one of the basic aims of the United Nations is to promote and encourage respectful human rights and fundamental human rights for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Today, the Tunesian society faces a variety of challenges when it comes to recognising and managing diversity. Among which, direct and indirect acts of discrimination, based on religious affiliation, namely hate speech and harassment. Both from state institutions as much as from individuals who affect religious minorities in all aspects of their lives. Some of whom, still now, do not have the right to establish cemeteries to rest in. Custody given based on religious jurisprudence, instead of concern to the offspring. And more urgent cases that require urgent response to. Attalaki promotes peaceful coexistence between all religious segments of society and defense religious freedom as an attempt to combat the spread of hatred between them. Attalaki would like to call on the state institutions, who operate with civil society to define the reforms needed to take place for those groups to guarantee a full citizenship approach based on universal values and commitment that Tunisia has. We do recognize, though, the will of some institutions and officials in supporting our cause. But we call for national unified efforts to tackle the cross cutting issues that those religious groups face. We will be keeping our stance and keep working towards a more diverse, accepting and tolerant Tunisia. This is not a call for defamation against the human rights that have been violated. On the contrary, this is a call for cooperation. Therefore, we want to recommend the following.