

Madam President, thank you,

My name is Masood Alhafnawi, I am the president of “Attalaki”, which works in the fields of nationality and religious freedom and building understanding in Tunisia.

Since its establishment in 2016, Attalaki has been working to spread the culture of coexistence and defending religious rights and combating all forms of hatred, extremism and discrimination. In recent years we have worked on integrating religious minorities and community dialogue of public concern. As a result of this work a national agreement of peaceful coexistence was signed on 26 January 2022 which included eight basic points addressing religious freedom, equality between the sexes, combating hate speech, protecting the environment, right to disagree, anti-discrimination and education.

Furthermore, on 23 March 2023, Attalaki and the Ministry of Education signed an agreement of cooperation and partnership which was an important and positive step that reflects to us the will of the Tunisian state to support our cause and goals. It also confirms to us the importance of cooperation between civil society and state institutions in solving the issues facing our society.

We shall always believe in our goals and continue to work to create a Tunisia that is more open, tolerant and peaceful. We are here to call for cooperation and commitment in upholding the rights of religious minorities and the foundations of nationality and coexistence, towards which we make the following recommendations:

- To call for more work to spread the culture of nationality which embraces diversity and pledging it through reform of the education system in a way that contributes to preparing younger generations to accept the right to be different [disagree].
- To work more towards achieving complete equality between citizens of both genders, in accordance with the Tunisian constitution of 2022, by securing the rights of Tunisian Christians and Baha'ies to have places of worship and cemeteries.

Thank you for your attention.