

Permanent Mission of Greece

The integration of individuals belonging to minority groups and the creation of a cohesive society is maybe a challenging process. However, this process not only fosters cultural diversity, but also enriches the social fabric, ultimately contributing to the creation of a vibrant and dynamic society. Thus, minorities can enjoy the full potential of diversity, fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose. Minority groups often face discrimination in areas such as education, employment and access to services. Certain groups are vulnerable to hate crimes targeted violence. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach involving legal frameworks, educational initiatives, economic policies, social programs, and community engagement. Greek minority policies have systematically consisted of adopting positive measures with regard to Greek citizens, members of the Muslim minority in Thrace, thus reiterating our steadfast commitment to and respect for the Lausanne Treaty, and furthering the full enjoyment of their rights, including religious freedom, freedom of association, and educational rights. And this notwithstanding the fact that Greek minorities in neighboring countries face continuous and multiple forms of discrimination resulting in violations of their basic human rights. The work of the Human Rights Council, the OHCHR, the mandate holders, the work of this very forum that we are participating in today, is of the utmost importance. And of course the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues is crucial to mark tendencies and identify future challenges. Mr. Special Rapporteur, we would like to welcome you to the Human Rights Council family and wish you every success in your tenure. We are looking forward to your ideas, priorities, and contributions. Thank you.