

Madame President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity. Today I represent the Association of the Venetian People, a historical European community that through centuries of culture language and tradition continue to contribute concretely to the social and economic vitality of the territories in which it lives. The main theme of this forum remand that the cultural and linguistic minorities are not the legacy of the past but a contemporary value. They enrich diversity, strengthening the resilience of the communities, and foster more peaceful societies. In this period, I wish to underline the importance of protecting and recognizing the venetian people and their language as provided by international regulation and in particular by the United Nations charter. Elements that represent not only cultural heritage but also a living resource for dialogue creativity and social cohesion. Our request is not for division but for recognition so that our language and culture which originated from the (?) history of the Republic of Venice, may be passed on to new generation valued within institutions and live with dignity as a people. We firmly believe that a society that respect all these identities is a stronger more inclusive society, and one that is more capable of building peace.