

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination I (continued), including rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism

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As delivered by

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Ms. Moderator,

I would like to start by thanking our distinguished introducers for their informative and insightful presentations.

My delegation would like to refer to three issues under the discussion of this session

First, we agree that Bolzano/Bozen recommendations are useful framework for addressing rights of national minorities under certain circumstances.

At the same time, we would like to stress that Bolzano recommendations should not be considered as exhaustive or main framework to this end. In our view, not in all situations strictly etatique and interstate framework could be beneficial for national minorities. We believe that first and foremost we need to empower national minority by providing more ownership and capacity to address individual and collective rights of its members rather than transform it into an object of interstate relations.

Second, political participation is certainly one of efficient tools of increasing ownership and capacities of national minorities. The recent legislative changes in Armenia provided more sustainable frameworks for national minorities to be a part of national decision making. As a result, four assigned seats have been allocated to four major national minorities of Armenia, such as Yazidis, Russians, Assyrians and Kurds. The National Assembly has already adopted motions put forward by these MPs.

Third, aggressive nationalism should be tackled in more systematic manner and in larger context of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Aggressive nationalism and promotion of hatred have been comfort zone for the Governments who violate human rights of their own people on daily basis depriving them of rights to vote and form the Government, to receive and impart information, to realize right to peaceful assembly and association and so forth.

In our view, the link between poor human rights record and aggressive nationalism should be thoroughly studied. In this regard, we would like to make one recommendation.

**We recommend the ODIHR to initiate study which would effectively correlate the human rights indicators particularly freedom index with the findings of CoE ECRI country reports.**

Thank you