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PERMANENT MISSION OF
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Item 3

Annual half-day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples : The causes and consequences of violence against indigenous women and girls, including those with disabilities

Geneva, 20 September 2016

-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

Albania warmly welcomes the organisation of this Panel and would like to avail of this

opportunity to express our willingness to promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous people.

We highly appreciate the focus of the Panel discussion and we stress the need to pay particular attention to the rights and specific needs of indigenous women, and girls including those with disabilities.

Albania is firmly committed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. Combating violence and discrimination against women and girls is high in our political agenda and we have given strong support to all initiatives in the Council with that regard.

States have the prime responsibility for protecting and promoting the human rights of indigenous women and girls and therefore, States must take appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination in policy and in practice.

While violence and discrimination faced by indigenous women is of grave concern whether it occurs in the public or private sphere, structural and institutional violence is symbolically just worst. State policies should be inclusive and practice or legislation that discriminates against indigenous women should be abolished.

We reiterate there is no valid cultural or religious justification for perpetuating violence and discrimination against women. It is important that states condemn violence against indigenous women, publically, take concrete and practical steps and adopt appropriate legislation and policies.

Furthermore, in order to prevent and combat all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women and girls it is of utmost importance to have an intersectional approach to human rights.

Indigenous women and girls face multiple and intersecting forms of violence that increase their vulnerability, consequently States in order to prevent institutional and structural violence should take simultaneously into account gender based violence with discrimination that women are subject on the grounds of ethnicity, age, disability or social status.

Indigenous women with disability and indigenous women in vulnerable situation are subject to even greater fragility therefore States need to pay particular attention to their needs while developing public policies in order to take into account their specific situation.

We would like to ask the distinguished panellist: While elaborating the national programs in fulfilling the commitments undertaken on the SGDs, what can states do to give due consideration to the rights of indigenous girls and women, including those with disabilities.

Thank you