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REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
GENEVA

COMMITTEE ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

1st
Conference of States parties

(19 December 2016)

**Albania Intervention under implementation of
Article 27 of the Convention**

Geneva, 19 December 2016

-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

Albania welcomes convening of the 1st Conference of State parties on the functioning of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED).

The Committee has rendered a contribution, by being fully engaged in examining the national reports on the implementation of the Convention by the states parties. This Committee of experts contributes to achieve the main objective as the fight against enforced disappearances, and protection of each individual from this heinous crime, by addressing its concerns and recommendations on implementation of the Convention. We commend the assistance and the work of CED to the state parties in providing measures against enforced disappearances.

Albania, by ratifying the Convention on 2007, was among the first countries which ratified the Convention and recognized the competences of the Committee to receive and consider the communications under article 31 and 32 of the Convention.

Albania has improved the domestic legislation by considering the enforced disappearance as a specific crime in the Criminal Code, consistent with the Convention, and punishable through the appropriate penalties, which take into account its extreme seriousness. The current legislation covers various modes of criminal liability, including any persons who commits, orders, solicits or induces the commitment, attempts to commit, is an accomplice to or participates in an enforced disappearance.

As the report on Albania is not considered yet by the Committee, we are looking forward to have a constructive dialogue with the Committee of the Convention. The dialogue of CED with the state parties as well as the concluding observations gives a sense of direction on how to fulfill the obligations raised from the convention to prevent enforced disappearances, to search for the disappeared persons, to combat impunity and to assure the rights of the victims to justice and reparation.

Albania has a good cooperation with the United Nations Working Group on Enforced. This Group concluded recently an official visit to Albania, from 5 to 12 December 2016, the first ever visit to our country. Albania is committed to investigate and punish the crimes and violations of human rights committed under communism regime, and to search, locate and identify remains of persons executed during the communist time. There was established recently

an Authority for the opening up of the files and documents with the aim to provide truth and justice for victims and their families. It is crucial for the State authorities, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to provide comprehensive policy to address the human rights abuses of the past, to provide the victims' right to truth, justice, reparation and memory including enforced disappearances.

In the Western Balkan region, much needs to be done to search for the unfounded persons during the ethnic conflicts in the 90's. Albania is convinced on the importance of the work of CED and supports the continuation of its work which is vital for the eradication of enforced disappearances.

We invite all states to join forces to achieve the universality of the convention, noting that it is progressing positively. Counting at present more than 50 states parties, we need to boost the convention ratification.

Albania, as a state party, but also as a friend of the convention, is committed to support the work of CED and to contribute in aiming the target for the universal ratification of the Convention.

Thank you.

H.E. Ambassador Filloreta Kodra