

Thank you Mrs. Chair,

I would like to emphasize the fact that the Romanian authorities are aware of the challenges faced by the national minorities. Since 1990, the Romanian authorities have adopted an inclusive policy aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as part of the Romanian society.

Through the years a special attention was given to the situation of the Roma minority. In this respect in 2001, the Government of Romania adopted the strategy for the improvement of the condition of Roma. The strategy was a document that established a set of objectives aimed at the improvement the situation of Roma in the period 2001 – 2010. It contained specific actions aimed at the improvement of the situation of the Roma women in areas such as employment, education and access to health. The results of the strategy were noticeable in some areas such as the establishment of the network of education and sanitary mediators, and the increase of the school attendance by the pupils of Roma minority. I would like to stress the fact that, in accordance with the Order 1540 /2008 of the Minister of Education the segregation is forbidden in the Romanian education system. Through the decade the public programs were implemented in partnership with the civil society.

In 2011, the National Agency for Roma issued the new draft of the strategy for improving the Roma condition for 2011 – 2020. The draft strategy also contains specific measures aimed at improving the situation of Roma women.

Mrs. Chair, distinguished participants,

We are aware of the challenges ahead of us and of the fact that the situation of women belonging to Roma minority is one of the most serious in our society. Nevertheless, the Romanian authorities are decided to live up to their commitment in this area and to create an inclusive society.