

**Statement of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia**  
**Fifth Session of the Forum on Minority Issues**  
**27-28 November, Geneva**

Madam Chairperson,

Since the adoption of the declaration in 1992 Armenia has continuously reaffirmed its commitment to the provisions enshrined in it by numerous initiatives of the implementation of minority rights.

The challenges of the implementation of the Declaration are both national and international.

The primary concern of the states should be the promotion of tolerance, non-discrimination and equal rights for people belonging to ethnic or national, linguistic or religious group. The effective measure should be undertaken at the legislative, administrative levels and in practice. Education and awareness-raising are very important in this regard.

For better identifying the challenges of the implementation of the provisions of the declaration national non-governmental bodies addressing the issues of minorities were established in Armenia, among them - the Coordinating Council for National Minorities and the Youth Group of National Minorities of Armenia. Department of Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs was also established within the Government, which works closely with the mentioned national minority organizations. National minorities' organizations also cooperate closely with the Office of the Human Rights Defender. The specialist of national minorities' rights has been recruited in the staff of the Office.

Armenia believes that the role of the international community is crucial in addressing the protection of minority rights. The international community should continuously condemn and combat discrimination and incitement of hatred. We consider that the major challenge is the existence of cases of crimes on ethnic ground, the impunity and glorification of the perpetrators of those crimes at the state level, incitement of hatred and racial discrimination by the politicians towards people belonging to other national or ethnic, religious and linguistic group. In this regard we would like to stress the principle stipulated by the Draft Recommendations that "Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Declaration and other minority rights standards and instruments".

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion we would like to stress the importance of the active involvement by national minorities themselves in the process. In this regard we value the activities of diaspora organizations in the promotion and protection of the rights of the minorities and we would like to note the positive experience of the Armenian diaspora throughout the World, the preservation of which is a challenge itself in many countries. In this regard, we encourage the participation of civil society organizations in this forum and we would like to stress that their contribution to the Forum is very important and can serve as a valuable source for those states in addressing the challenges of the implementation of the Declaration.

training, seminar as well as producing a lot of writings and books regarding re-interpretation of Qur'an and Hadith in thematic issues such as women leadership, trafficking in human, tolerance, marital rape, Jihad, etc. However, KOMNAS perempuan reported in August 2012 that 282 policies in provincial and district levels, subjecting to discrimination against minority rights. 20 cases of violation against minority rights, reported by Wahid Institute in 2011 are perpetuated by state actor. These all indicates that the quality of leadership among policy maker, religious and community leader are deficit. For this reason, intra inter faiths dialogue, training, exchange program among religious leaders as connector and dividers to peace should be enlarged.

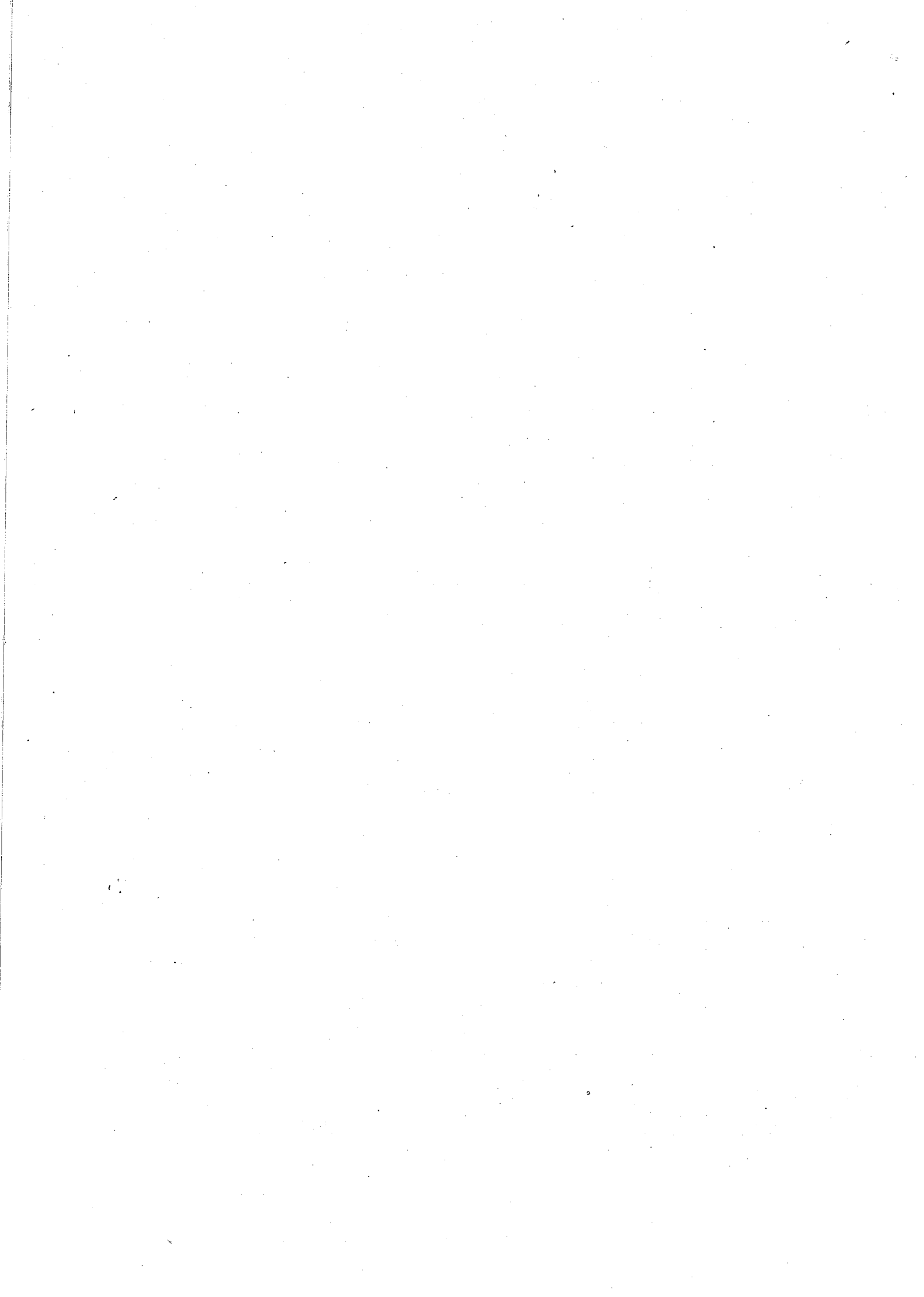
**The Third**, Individual change is not enough, unless it transfers into cultural change, where strong civil societies, including minority organizations should take active roles in development planning, implementation and evaluation. We have a good practice on synergy among civil society organizations in advocating freedom for religions in Indonesia, but unfortunately lack of present of minority groups, because of security reason. However, we still have homework on strengthening trust among minority groups and unite them, and engage into collective movement with other civil societies to make effective change.

**Finally**, The Indonesia Constitution 1945 reflect clearly protection and promoting of minority rights in Indonesia, but some regulations such as regulation No.1/PNPS/1965 regarding prevention of blasphemy, the Joint decree of ministry of religious affair and internal affair No. 9 year 2006 and No. 8 year 2006 regarding technical guidelines on tolerance, forum for tolerance, and building permits, and regulation to ban Ahmadiyah faith minority are used by fundamentalist group to legitimate their violent acts.

Therefore, Structural change, need strong commitment of policy makers to produce peace sensitive policy, but also equal partnership with CSOs and clear National Action Plan (NAP) on implementation of the declaration. My experience involving in working group on developing National Action Plan of UN Resolution 1325 regarding women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, is one of good example of equal partnership between GO and NGOs. 25 meetings among representative of government and non government has been able to build strong perspective on understanding UNR 1325 among policy makers, but also provide NGOs with sufficient information on complexity of beurocracy inside government body.

Thank you for your attention.

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