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Conseil des droits de l'homme

Vingt-septième session

Point 9 de l'ordre du jour

**Le racisme, la discrimination raciale, la xénophobie et l'intolérance
qui y est associée: suivi et application de la Déclaration
et du Programme d'action de Durban**

Note verbale, datée du 22 septembre 2014, adressée au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de la Grèce auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales ayant leur siège en Suisse

La Mission permanente de la Grèce auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales ayant leur siège en Suisse présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire tenir ci-joint les observations du Gouvernement grec concernant l'exposé écrit, en date du 25 août 2014, soumis par la Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial auprès du Conseil économique et social (A/HRC/27/NGO/20).

La Mission permanente de la Grèce demande au Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme de bien vouloir faire distribuer la présente note et les observations¹ en tant que document officiel de la vingt-septième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 9 de l'ordre du jour.

¹ Les observations sont reproduites, telles qu'elles ont été reçues, dans la langue originale seulement.

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Merci de recycler



Annexe

[*Anglais seulement*]

Minority education in Thrace, Greece

Greece fully respects all rights of the members of the Muslim minority in Thrace, including their right to education. Special social and educational policies are constantly implemented by the State across all levels of education: primary, secondary and tertiary.

For instance, “The Education of the Children of the Muslim Minority in Thrace” programme is a policy aiming at supporting Muslim minority children in their schooling in terms of attendance, performance and assistance. One of the positive results of this action is that the number of Muslim minority girls graduating from high school has significantly increased.

Moreover, a 0.5% quota of the general admission to Universities and Higher Technical Educational Institutes is reserved to Muslim minority students from Thrace. This has led to an equally significant increase of the number of Muslim minority undergraduate students (eightfold since 1996). Additionally, parents of Muslim children can themselves, as well, benefit from Greek language and culture courses, so that they will be able to engage more actively in their children’s education.

Greece firmly believes that education constitutes one of the key tools enabling minority children to further integrate into the society they live in, while fully respecting their cultural diversity. Thus, Greece is complying with the provisions of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, as well as with relevant international conventions.

School-aged children, who are members of the Muslim minority and have opted for minority schooling, are accommodated by 146 primary, 2 secondary and 2 religious (Koranic) schools. Muslim pre-schoolers can attend one of the 57 public kindergartens across the Region of Thrace, operating in areas where Muslim population resides.

Greece spares no efforts in the continuous endeavour to improve existing education infrastructure and renew school equipment. Our policies aim at enabling every student, belonging to the Muslim minority, to be educated, to be guaranteed unfettered access to the labour market, to integrate into the society and to develop freely their personality.

The civil society is a useful ally in this effort. The Greek Government attaches great importance to the dialogue with the civil society; a dialogue, which is a comprehensive process oriented towards guaranteeing the prosperity of and enhancing the opportunities for all Greek citizens in an equal manner - irrespective of their religious belief, cultural background or origin. Greece will continue to further explore ways and means to meet the needs of the Muslim minority and work for their well-being.