

Adoption of Greece's UPR report
33rd session of the Human Rights Council (21 September 2016)

*Oral Statement submitted by the Greek National Commission for
Human Rights (GNCHR)*

Thank you Mr President.

This statement is made on behalf of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights, Greece's 'A-status' National Human Rights Institution.

The Commission acknowledges the Greek Government's critical self-assessment but underlines at the outset that the protection of human rights must be proved in practice and many measures for the protection of human rights in Greece should be adopted as a matter of urgency.

The Commission, considering the recommendations made during the dialogue, is monitoring closely, in its capacity as the National Human Rights Institution, the relevant issues and the State's due compliance to its human rights obligations.

The Commission observes with satisfaction that the recommendations also include explicit references to social, economic and cultural rights and remains concerned about the severe impact on human rights by the prolonged implementation of austerity measures of permanent character as well as the adoption of further measures restricting the enjoyment and protection of core labor rights.

The management of refugees' flows in accordance with the obligations of Greece in respect of human rights also remains a constant challenge, given also the EU-Turkey agreement, the adoption and implementation of which raises crucial issues of human rights protection.

In the light of the multiple crisis that Greece is facing, the Commission particularly calls on the Greek Government to address the existing deficiencies in the investigation and awareness-raising on racism and intolerance against marginalised groups which remains a general issue of concern in Greece.

Finally, the Commission reiterates its call for the effective implementation of the CRPD and observes with concern that current policies for the social inclusion of Roma have been inadequate.

Greece is indeed in need of a comprehensive human rights strategy, including a human rights impact assessment mechanism as well as targeted, coherent and dully monitored national human rights actions plans. The Commission is committed to working with the Government and the public institutions in the future to ensure that the UPR recommendations are met fully and to joining forces with the civil society, the Human Rights Council and all the UN bodies in this direction.

Mr President, distinguished members of the Council, thank you for your attention.