



AA19CR08ADD2

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Addendum 2

2019 ORDINARY SESSION

(First part)

REPORT

Eighth sitting

Thursday 24 January 2019 at 3.30 p.m.

Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities

The following texts were submitted for inclusion in the official report by members who were present in the Chamber but were prevented by lack of time from delivering them.

Mr HUSEYNOV (*Azerbaijan*) - My country, Azerbaijan, attaches significant importance and value to the framework convention, which it ratified even before its accession to the Council of Europe. The Government of Azerbaijan has been co-operating with the monitoring mechanism of the Convention Advisory Committee in the spirit of constructive co-operation.

The simple statistics give a precise indication of the panorama of ethnic diversity of Azerbaijan. The republic, with a population of over 10 million, is inhabited by representatives of more than 100 ethnicities. From the point of view of the single-family conditions created for national minorities and ethnic groups, Azerbaijan can undoubtedly be referred to as a model country. Furthermore, in Azerbaijan it is the result of historical experience, with the tradition of centuries. Ethnic, religious and cultural diversity has also made its contribution to Azerbaijan, which is located at the intersection of East and West. The combining of cultures has not only enriched Azerbaijan inwardly, having created the colorful and harmonious cultural palette of the country, but has today made it one of the centres of global multiculturalism.

The success of the policy on national minorities that has been pursued in the country initially relates to tradition. If such a tradition had not existed historically and this sense had not occupied a place in the national psychology, irrespective of any kind of intense undertakings towards national minorities, it would have been hard to achieve such positive outcomes.

However, there is a need to share thoughts about one alarming trend. In my opinion, a number of countries with numerous national minorities are facing this problem. This alarming trend appears to be external interference in the issue of national minorities, as well as various provocative broadcasts transmitted over social networks and from outside the country. I suppose that we should act jointly against such common misfortunes and put in motion the effective mechanisms that can prevent such destructive activities.