

Item 6

With regard to draft Recommendation 16, in order to raise awareness of the 1992 Declaration on rights of minorities, thus ensuring its practical implementation, the delegation of Switzerland intends to propose to the federal administration to publish the Declaration into our 3 national languages – German, French and Italian – and into our fourth national language, Rumantsch. Translated into our 4 languages, the Declaration would be published in the Swiss official compilation of federal laws and international treaties and could be widely disseminated at the national, cantonal and community levels, also with the assistance of the civil society, including NGOs and minority groups. We also think the IE on Minority Issues made a very good point in draft Recommendation 34 when she wrote that “human rights education should be made an integral part of the national educational experience and integrate a minority rights component”.

With regard to Recommendation 37, 50 and 65, as well as 58 and 59 :

We remind you that the Swiss authorities have sent in 2002 a standing invitation to all thematic Special Procedures of the HR Commission and now HR Council to make a country visit to Switzerland.

We would also welcome the fact that all relevant Special Procedures of the HRC are invited to examine the situation of minorities within their own mandates and that human rights Treaty Bodies are invited to ask States to provide information on the situation of minorities under relevant provisions of their respective treaties .

Finally we also welcome that minority rights issues should be an integral part of the Universal Periodic Review of the HRC.