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## Resolution CM/ResCMN(2023)2 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by North Macedonia

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 8 February 2023  
at the 1456<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Articles 24 to 26 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as “the Framework Convention”),

Having regard to Resolution CM/Res(2019)49 of 11 December 2019 on the revised monitoring arrangements under Articles 24 to 26 of the Framework Convention as amended by Resolution CM/Res(2022)30 of 27 September 2022;

Having regard to the applicable voting rule;<sup>1</sup>

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by North Macedonia on 10 April 1997;

Recalling that the Government of North Macedonia transmitted its State report in respect of the fifth monitoring cycle under the Framework Convention on 24 June 2020;

Having examined the Advisory Committee’s fifth opinion on North Macedonia adopted on 18 May 2022,

Adopts the following conclusions in respect of North Macedonia:

The authorities are invited to take account of the observations and recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee’s fifth opinion. In particular, they should take the following measures to improve further the implementation of the Framework Convention:

### **Recommendations for immediate action:**

1. take further steps towards the promotion of an integrated society that is based on respect and trust between the various communities. To ensure sustainability of the Strategy “One Society for All”, the authorities should provide high-level political support, solid financing and outreach to practitioners in education, media and civil society, as well as the general public. Furthermore, the authorities are urged to implement an intercultural approach to education through allocating adequate resources, continuing to review teaching materials, and training teachers and other education staff on the cultures, history and present situation of the different minorities. More regular contacts among pupils with different ethnic backgrounds should be ensured, including by providing for mixed school and classroom environments.

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<sup>1</sup> On 17 September 1997, the Committee of Ministers adopted decision CM/Del/Dec(97)601/4.5, which provides: “Decisions pursuant to Articles 24.1 and 25.2 of the Framework Convention shall be considered to be adopted if two-thirds of the representatives of the Contracting Parties casting a vote, including a majority of the representatives of the Contracting Parties entitled to sit on the Committee of Ministers, vote in favour”.

2. increase efforts to prevent cases of human rights violations against Roma by the police. Furthermore, the authorities should ensure that the oversight mechanisms within the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor's Office and in the Ombudsperson's Office are effective and that alleged cases of police misconduct are investigated and adequately sanctioned.

3. improve access of Roma children to quality education by strengthening good practices such as education mediators, scholarships and education allowances and making these known to Roma parents. The authorities should also increase the enrolment in preschools, and resolutely address *de facto* segregated education. Furthermore, the authorities are urged to ensure Roma have in practice access to the legally guaranteed free health care services, including to diagnosis, treatment and vaccination related to Covid-19. Particular attention should be paid to access to reproductive health services and information for Roma women. The authorities should invest more in recruiting and training Roma health mediators and medical practitioners, especially from among women.

**Further recommendations:<sup>2</sup>**

4. provide the necessary resources for the Commission on Protection and Prevention against Discrimination and the Ombudsperson so they can independently and effectively fulfil their mandates;

5. provide earmarked and sustainable funding at a level that meets the cultural needs of persons belonging to national minorities and continue to pursue efforts to strengthen an inclusive approach to cultural policy;

6. ensure that incidents of hate crime and hate speech are promptly identified, recorded and effectively investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice. Existing initiatives against online hate speech, such as the Council on Media Ethics and the Registry of Professional and Ethical Online Media, should be given all necessary support;

7. allocate sufficient resources to the minority language newsrooms in the public broadcaster. The authorities should also ensure that public broadcasting consistently promotes intercultural respect and understanding, thereby contributing to the integration of society. They should consider providing support to print or online media outlets for numerically smaller minorities;

8. improve the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages through increasing considerably the investment in the training and recruitment of translators and interpreters and continuously evaluate its impact. The law's provisions on the language rights of numerically smaller national minorities should be clarified;

9. improve conditions for the teaching in and of minority languages. The minimum number of pupils for opening a minority language class should be lowered and awareness raising and surveys on requests conducted regularly well ahead of each school year. The authorities should look into possibilities of fostering knowledge of minority languages, particularly Albanian, among children from the majority;

10. increase socio-economic participation of persons belonging to national minorities living in rural areas through investing in infrastructure and employment opportunities and targeted support for minority youth. Effective participation of the communities concerned should be ensured;

11. increase, in close co-operation with Roma representatives, the participation of Roma in the labour market through programmes that are specifically tailored towards the respective target groups, including Roma women, and ensure that the Covid-19 pandemic does not disproportionately affect the socio-economic participation of Roma.

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<sup>2</sup> The recommendations below are listed in the order of the corresponding articles of the Framework Convention.