Madam Chair,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your profound interest in human rights in Serbia. The relevance of your recommendations fully testifies to the universality of human rights.

Serbia immediately accepted as many as 132 of 144 of your recommendations, which is indicative of my country’s determination to respect and promote human rights. But determination itself is not enough. I will follow with particular attention the extent to which those recommendations are implemented in practice, because, regrettably, practice still lags behind declaratory statements of will.

I confirm what you have already concluded – Serbia has in place a relatively complete legal framework for the protection of human rights and all the institutions that are necessary to guarantee these rights in practice.

The right way to overcoming the problems in the exercise of certain rights and freedoms is not by adopting new laws and creating new independent bodies.

The right way is to resolutely apply the regulations that guarantee human rights and the right way is to ensure the supremacy of the rule of law over political will.

Also, the solution is to enhance the efficiency, capacities and responsibility of state authorities and civil servants at all levels, including the lowest ones, for compliance with the laws and regulations.

Promotion of human rights in Serbia will be continued in terms of prevention of torture, protection of human rights defenders and journalists, equality of LGBT persons, independence of the judiciary, separation of church and state, the rights of the child, legal personality for all citizens, and other issues for which you have shown particular concern. Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

PROTECTOR OF CITIZENS
Saša Janković