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**Protector of Citizens
Ombudsman**

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UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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**BELGRADE PRINCIPLES ON
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
AND PARLIAMENTS**

Madame President,
Madame Pillay,
Distinguished members of the Human Rights Council,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for your attention and the opportunity to address you in this effective and practical way.

I will speak on the newly adopted Belgrade Principles on the relationship between national human rights institutions and parliaments. In february this year I have had the honor to host the gathering of parliamentarians, NHRIs and scholars from four regions of the world, that gave birth to this document.

NHRIS face a special, independence related, challenge in the cooperation with their "institutional parent" – the parliament. Once elected, they need to emancipate from the parliament within their constitutional powers and still to remain legally accountable, in line with the universal principle of accountability for any public office.

The participants of Belgrade conference worked together to identify the principles that describe a fruitful and healthy relationship between NHRIs and parliaments. Some of those principles are of general nature, such as the requirement for the two to work together to develop the

culture of respect for human rights. Others are more practical, such as the one calling that members of the NHRIs remain in office until the parliament elects new members, so there will be no institutional vacuum.

We found extremely important that the relationship between parliaments and NHRIs is not exhausted by appointment and dismissal procedure. There is a huge potential for complementary activities and mutual reinforcement and that was exactly what Belgrade Principles sought to explore.

I kindly ask you to consider, make use of and further develop the Belgrade Principles.

Thank you very much for your attention.

PROTECTOR OF CITIZENS

Saša Janković