

It also called upon participating states to refrain from discriminating against these individuals in their states. Further, it would require participating states to promote opportunities for these individuals to maintain, develop and transmit to others their own culture in all its aspects, including language, literature, religion, and cultural monuments and historical artifacts.

Ambassador Bauer noted that throughout the course of European history, migrations, resettlements, border adjustments, and in more recent times two world wars, had created across Europe a mosaic of different ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities which bore little or no relationship to national frontiers. Canada and the United States shared in the cultural tapestry of Europe by virtue of the vast numbers of Europeans who have emigrated to North America, and who have contributed to the very texture of our societies.

The Canadian proposal, if accepted by all delegations, would be a valuable step forward in assuring the protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of national minorities and regional cultures, and in so doing contribute to the ongoing process of cooperation and security in Europe.