Thank you Mr. Chair.

First of all, because this is the first time for me to have a floor, I would like to express my congratulation for your taking office of the chair. I have humbly observed that you have already exercised chairpersonship in very efficient and effective manner. I appreciate for it.

On the agenda of unaccompanied migrant children, I also appreciate Ms. Hanannia as the Rapporteur for her very comprehensive report on this serious issue. Unaccompanied migrant children are particularly vulnerable, because they are lack of protection not only by states but also by their own families. Despite of serious character of this matter, I am so sorry to recognize that there is a legal gap to address to this issue. Simply put, when the authorities find unaccompanied foreign children without any identity documents, it would be rather automatic application of national immigration law to deport these children somewhere as so-called “unlawful” residents.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this issue before us is NOT child migrants in general, but migrant children those are unaccompanied. In addition, it seems to me that it would be better to treat with matters of human trafficking as another subject.

It means that the protection of their parents or family is NOT available at least for the moment. In this regard, I am wondering whether it is appropriate to repeatedly refer to a policy to promote family reunification in this context. It seems that the more important is to provide them on-site protection through state machineries even on a temporary basis. Emphasis on family reunification could lead to governmental policies to find the parents as the first priorities. I would like to repeat that here we are treating with the cases where the parents’ protection is not certainly available and generally speaking, so weak or not so trustful.

In my statement in the last session, I characterized the situation of unaccompanied children as de facto stateless. I would like to repeat on this point, as they need surrogate protection of the state where they are found.

Thank you.