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Speaking points

- **Re-securitization of minority rights (MR).** Originally, MR emerged as a part of the security agenda, and only in the second half of the 20th century were they transformed into an "integral part of fundamental human rights" – however, the first modern document on MR was adopted under the auspices of the OSCE. The Council of Europe in the context of its instruments (the Framework Convention and the Language Charter) considers MR primarily as a human rights issue. Nowadays we witness gradual return to the original security concept.

- **Interpretation of MR in the security context**. Do generous policies towards minorities enhance security through ensuring minorities' loyalty or rather provoke security risks (as empowering minorities creates better conditions for their mobilization and organized action, potentially coordinated with and by external actors)?

- **Modern nationalism**. The concept of "nation state" as a state of and for a certain ethnic group, thus provoking alienation and exclusion of minorities. Assimilation as a sign of loyalty? Danger of a presumption that political loyalty correlates with ethnic origin/cultural affiliation.

- **The concept of integration of minorities**. Main elements according to the Council of Europe: common values, official language, non-discrimination and equality of opportunities. Integration as social cohesion vs cultural assimilation.

- **Symbolic and practical aspects of MR**. Symbolic: for example, toponyms. Practical: for example, use of minority languages before public authorities. The both are essential. Different minorities have different needs, practical demand is important.

- **Personal scope of application**. Limitation to only "traditional" or "historical" minorities – wrong from the point of view of both human rights and security. If MR are seen, inter alia, as a tool for reducing risks through effective accommodation of diversity, no point in reducing the scope of application. AC FCNM consistently advocates inclusive approach, in particular, on article-by-article basis.

- **Content of MR**. Too often seen as merely allocation of resources to cultural associations. Trend: designated areas for manifestation of cultural diversity. Effective MR: measures to take into account diversity with the aim to ensure equality. Equal treatment is not always sufficient, equal treatment may be discriminatory. MR come to play when different treatment is needed to ensure full and effective equality.

- **Key: effective participation** of minorities. Representation of minorities: not easy. Who is a partner for a dialogue?

- **No universal solutions**. Red lines: basic values of democracy and HR, not prevailing cultural traditions. Societies change and evolve, cultural and linguistic diversity, multiple identities. Conventions: dynamic interpretation, living instruments. Major challenge for a modern state: to reconcile diversity as the basic value with the necessary degree of homogeneity needed to ensure effective functioning of a state.