

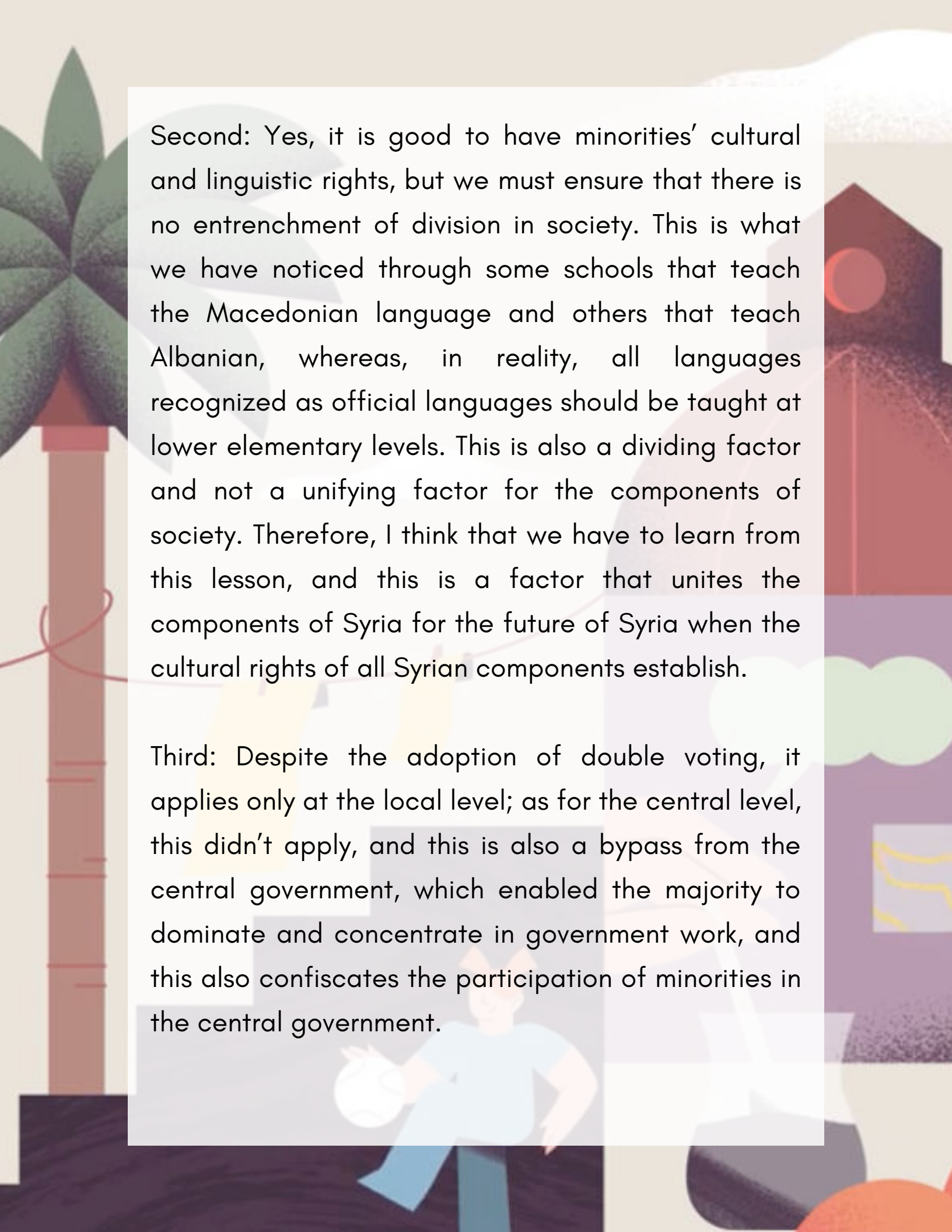
NORTH MACEDONIA: LESSONS LEARNED FOR SYRIA

A STATEMENT BY **EMAN SHAHOUD**

Big thanks to ECKS. Actually, I consider it one of the most important meetings held by the EZKS for us because it showed us a realistic and practical experience, and we learned from the negative and positive points it contains.

My notes are below:

First: The constitutional article came to mention the powers, but it was in a vague wording; this reflected on the work in reality and made it closer to centralization than decentralization due to a lack of clarity in the constitution which led to enabling the central government to seize the powers granted to local governments and also to confiscate them, according to the will of the central government.

The background features a stylized illustration. On the left, there is a tree with a thick brown trunk and large green leaves. On the right, there is a stylized house with a dark red roof and a red circular window. The overall style is flat and modern.

Second: Yes, it is good to have minorities' cultural and linguistic rights, but we must ensure that there is no entrenchment of division in society. This is what we have noticed through some schools that teach the Macedonian language and others that teach Albanian, whereas, in reality, all languages recognized as official languages should be taught at lower elementary levels. This is also a dividing factor and not a unifying factor for the components of society. Therefore, I think that we have to learn from this lesson, and this is a factor that unites the components of Syria for the future of Syria when the cultural rights of all Syrian components establish.

Third: Despite the adoption of double voting, it applies only at the local level; as for the central level, this didn't apply, and this is also a bypass from the central government, which enabled the majority to dominate and concentrate in government work, and this also confiscates the participation of minorities in the central government.