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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Croatia

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Croatia was held at the 13th meeting on 12 May 2015. The delegation of Croatia was headed by H.E. Ms. Vesna Pusić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs. At its 17th meeting held on 15 May 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Croatia.
2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Croatia: Bangladesh, Brazil and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Croatia:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/HRV/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/HRV/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/HRV/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Croatia through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs was honoured to present Croatia report before the Working Group. She was proud of the progress made by Croatia in the human rights area and was conscious that this is a continuous task. She pointed out that the level of protection and the scope of definition of human rights as a basic test for any State for its efficiency and functionality, highlighting especially minority rights which can be seen as a criterion of the status of human rights in a country. The Minister emphasized the constant interaction between the state and civil society as a necessity. She informed the delegates that the legislative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights in Croatia is based on the ‘National Program for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NPPPHR) 2013 - 2016’ and that Croatia has four ombudswomen, for human rights, women rights, rights of children and rights of persons with disabilities.
6. The Minister highlighted the issues that she intended to raise in her presentation, among other topics, free legal aid, rights of persons with disabilities, social rights, LGBTI, national minorities, anti-discrimination, ethnic discrimination, specifically vulnerable groups, hate crime, war crimes, the issue of missing persons, displaced persons and human trafficking.

7. Concerning free legal aid the Minister explained that this instrument (new Free Legal Aid Act) has two segments; one being primary legal aid in form of advice, provided to everybody on demand without an income census, and the other secondary legal aid in form of legal clinics accessible with an income census in cases before the court. Aid for victims of domestic violence is universally accessible without an income census.

8. On the issue of the efficiency of the judiciary, the Minister addressed the backlog of cases illustrating the improvement by comparing the backlog of 1.6 million cases in 2004, to 500 709 cases, as of today. Admitting that this issue still needs more effort, she elaborated further on the reasons for improvement, the key being specialized courts. The reform of the courts and the public attorney's system, the reduced number of courts and public attorney offices, the introduction of information technology, including the assignment of cases and a simpler misdemeanor procedure also contributed to the efficiency.

9. The Minister reflected on the consequences and the human rights challenges of the war that Croatia is still dealing with, although the war ended in 1995. She highlighted that every society had to deal with the consequences and the brutalization of the society that happens during the war. Croatia has four specialized courts with jurisdiction over war crimes in four biggest cities. On the previous practice of sentencing people "*in absentia*" the Minister informed that there is a revision of all of those cases, and individuals can request a review of a specific case if they were sentenced "*in absentia*". There were 16 cases presented at the European Court of Human Rights regarding war crimes. Out of 16 cases, 3 of them, the Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff stating that the procedures indeed were not conducted as they should have been, in 3 cases the court has reconfirmed the procedure and verdict by the Croatian court and 10 cases were dismissed by the court. The Minister intended in providing this data in her summary, to show how it reflects positively on the functioning, efficiency and the procedural correctness of these specialized courts. The Minister later revealed the statistics on the prosecution of war crimes. From 1992 up to the end of 2014, proceedings were initiated against 3553 persons, 589 persons were convicted and 220 are under additional investigations.

10. On the issue of sexual violence during the war, the Minister informed of the new Bill that will recognize the rights of rape victims during the war, including the right to compensation.

11. The Minister emphasized LGBTI rights as extremely important, describing the progress made from the first Gay Pride in Zagreb 12 years ago which was held in precarious atmosphere, to today's Prides which have become a celebration of freedom rather than a struggle. In Split, the government reacted to the violence during the first Gay Pride by five government ministers and the mayor of Split marching in next year's parade. This shows that the State, not only through legislation but also by leading by example has a role to play in defending human rights. The Minister also reflected on this issue later, specifically concerning the Law on Registered Partnership that allows LGBT partners to have all the same rights as married couples except proverbially the right to adopt children.

12. On the issue of ethnic or national minorities, the Minister informed that Croatia has over 20 national minorities recognised by the constitution. The Minister especially underlined the status of Serbs and Roma. The Minister informed on the constitutional provisions for the protection of human rights of national minorities including the eight seats reserved in the parliament for ethnic minorities, which is an important influence they have, since they can make or break a government. The Roma are seen actively as an important contribution to the society. One of the achievements is that Roma language is now taught at Zagreb University and a Roma - Croatian dictionary was also published. The land where Roma settlements were built has been legally registered and over 1500 illegally built Roma houses have been legalized so far. Funds were provided by the state. The Roma have also

started a Roma National Council. In her response to questions on Roma education, the Minister announced the plans to build new schools in two communities with a high Roma population, ensuring better conditions so integration may become easier.

13. On the question of minorities in State employment the Minister informed that the current percentage is 3, 5 percent and this will have to improve.

14. The head of delegation stated concerning the issue of political representation that quotas work and explaining the system of quotas for women applied first in the local elections and now will be applied in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Croatia has a modified proportional system of representation; the country is divided in 10 electoral districts and in each district 14 members of parliament are elected. 6 out of 14 in each list will have to be women.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

15. During the interactive dialogue, 68 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Trinidad and Tobago noted with satisfaction that since its first UPR in 2010, Croatia had made several advancements in its legal and institutional framework in the realm of human rights. It also welcomed the broad scope of the “2013-2016 National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights” (NPPPHR).

17. Turkey applauded Croatia’s efforts aimed to improve institutional and legal framework contributing to the overall well-being and harmony of diverse communities. It noted with satisfaction steps taken to combat corruption, appreciating the range of policies and programmes elaborating to the rights of the child, while encouraging strengthening the anti-discrimination dimension. They appreciated efforts to prevent violence against women that will advance women’s general standing and self-esteem.

18. Ukraine appreciated the consultations with different stakeholders and civil society in the preparation of the National report. It acknowledged steps taken by Croatia since the first UPR cycle and commended the adoption of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and the National Strategy of Protection against Family Violence (NSPAFV), 2011-2016, and encouraged to effectively implement these important documents. They recognised steps in improving health care system, particularly for children.

19. Germany encouraged Croatia to continue on the path of improving human rights and cooperating with neighbouring countries and with civil society. It noted shortcomings with regard to the duration of judicial trials and in the area of non-discrimination of women and minorities, in particular the Serb minority and Sinti and Roma. Germany was also concerned about discrimination against LGBTI persons.

20. The United States of America hoped they continue to serve as a model in respecting human rights which is key to democratic development and economic growth. It commended Croatia leadership on women’s issues as a chair of multilateral Equal Futures Partnership and steps taken to address trafficking in human beings. It expressed concern about discrimination and violence against women and girls, LGBTI persons and ethnic minorities, particularly Serbs and Roma. They commended the robust structure for addressing human trafficking and urged for more implementation efforts.

21. Uruguay welcomed the Plan on de-institutionalisation and transformation of social welfare homes and other legal persons performing social welfare activities for 2011-2016. It welcomed the entry into force of the Law of Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders (LPPMD) and encouraged Croatia to continue the work in relation to people with disabilities, particularly people with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

22. The Bolivian Republic of Venezuela commended the efforts in the implementation of the recommendations of the first cycle. It welcomed the NPPPHR and noted that Croatia demonstrated progress in awareness-raising on minorities and vulnerable groups. It also welcomed the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the promotion of gender equality and political participation of women.
23. Albania congratulated Croatia for significant steps taken to follow-up on the recommendations since the first UPR cycle, making emphasis on the strengthening of institutional and legal framework and raising public awareness regarding minorities and vulnerable groups. It also noted Croatia's commitment to proceed to the ratification of the ICPPED and the fact that it is actively supporting the drafting of the OP-ICESCR.
24. Algeria noted with satisfaction the establishment of national programs in the area of healthcare system, protection of children and prevention from violence within the family. It also welcomed the existence of such mechanism as Ombudsperson, in particular for children, gender equality and persons with disabilities as well as cooperation with human rights mechanisms.
25. Angola welcomed efforts undertaken by Croatia to promote and protect women's rights, in particular by adopting the law and national policy for gender equality. It encouraged the government of Croatia to continue its implementation of measures to combat discrimination through the National Program for the Protection and Promotion of human rights.
26. Argentina congratulated Croatia on the establishment of the 2011-2014 Action Plan for the Employment of National Minorities in Public Administration Bodies. Argentina also noted efforts undertaken to combat human trafficking, through the harmonization of national legislation with international norms. It encouraged Croatia to push forward with the additional measures mentioned in its national report.
27. Armenia appreciated the steps undertaken to combat trafficking of women and children, cooperation with civil society on this issue as well as awareness-raising initiatives through media and trainings. It also noted efforts directed to protect the rights of national minorities and promote interethnic tolerance; however they noted that national minorities concerns and issues are not sufficiently represented.
28. Australia acknowledged efforts to address gender-based discrimination and domestic violence. Australia also noted reports of continued societal discrimination against minority groups, including in education, employment, housing and healthcare.
29. Austria noted the measures taken to reduce overcrowding in detention centres and to improve healthcare for persons deprived of their liberty. Austria noted concerns as expressed by CAT and CRC about the lack of legal safeguards for these persons and prolonged pre-trial detention particularly for children. Austria also expressed concern about reports of police officers' being inadequately trained to respond to domestic violence, and at times, the victims have been arrested and charged along with the perpetrators.
30. Benin appreciated Croatia's efforts made since the first UPR cycle and welcomed the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect to Inter-country Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention) as well as adoption of the Protocol on procedures relating to acts of sexual violence.
31. Bosnia and Herzegovina noted concerns expressed by UNHCR that 15 per cent of Serb minority returnees do not have access to portable running water and 33 percent live in villages without paved roads and 40 per cent did not have access to public transportation. It also noted the high unemployment rate of 68 percent among minority returnees. It also noted that minority returnees face problems regarding their right to pension.

32. Brazil commended Croatia for strengthening its national legal and institutional human rights framework over the recent years, through the entry into force of the Act on the Ombudsman in 2011, which also performs the functions of a national preventive mechanism and the Act on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities.

33. Bulgaria commended the implementation of key strategic documents and efforts to combat hate crime, ensure free legal aid and improve education on human rights. It appreciated concrete measures taken to strengthen the effectiveness of its efforts to protect women's rights and combat domestic violence. Bulgaria noted the adoption of some progressive legislation on gender-based violence. It acknowledged the efforts within the national preventive project entitled "Living without violence" which involves different stakeholders including police and NGOs'.

34. Canada welcomed Croatia's support for the 2010 UPR recommendations to take measures to eliminate discrimination against the Roma community. Canada expressed concern about reports that Roma are often unable to access state services due to their lack of legal status inside the country.

35. Chile commended the commitment to human rights and the ratification of human rights treaties. It welcomed the adoption of laws on anti-discrimination on national minorities, gender equality and right to legal assistance. They highlighted the entry into force of the Law of the Ombudsman in 2011. It also commended the establishment of an office to promote gender equality.

36. Reflecting on the questions and recommendations the Minister touched upon the rights of persons with disabilities, emphasizing deinstitutionalization as the leitmotiv of current policies. This is a process both for people with physical disabilities and mental disabilities. A number of institutions which used to be centres where people with disabilities lived have been transformed to provide service within the community on an outpatient basis. The Minister informed on the ways integration of those people are achieved, including assisted living and the integration of children with disabilities into regular schools. Assistance is provided where it was necessary. People with mental and intellectual disabilities specifically are being integrated including having the voting rights. A measure introduced in order to facilitate further employment of persons with disabilities stipulated that every company with more than 20 employees has to have at least one person with disability employed; this increases with the number of employees.

37. Concerning the questions about domestic violence the Minister informed the delegates on the changes in the Criminal Code, namely the stipulation that domestic violence is now a criminal offence. Addressing the issue of dual arrest, arrest of the victim and the perpetrator, the Minister explained that this is no longer happening. She also elaborated on the measures in place during and after the proceedings to separate the perpetrator from the victim and from the home informing that Croatia has 19 safe houses for victims of domestic violence.

38. On the issue of fight against corruption, the Minister stated that Croatia took a bold and controversial step in prosecuting/investigating officials at the highest levels, in order to address the issue at the highest possible levels. She also informed on the Anti-corruption strategy for 2015-2020 adopted in February 2015 and was devised in a participatory manner; over 40 participants took part in designing it, including NGOs.

39. Coming to the issue of gender equality the Minister noted concerning employment of women highlighting the universal undercover discrimination. In order to eliminate the disadvantage of women when they are seeking for employment paternity leave was introduced.

40. The head of delegation informed that Croatia has spent 5-6 billion Euros out of its budget on housing of some 354 000 returnees, about 130,000 out of which are ethnic Serbs. Through the housing program 149,887 persons have been provided with houses and others with the material to restore their houses or were housed in another way. At the moment, 480 people are still without houses or in the status of refugees. The Minister also tackled the issue of abandoned property given for use to other persons informing that all but 13 cases have been resolved, 7 of which are in the process currently.

41. China commended Croatia for its constructive engagement with the UPR. It also commends the adoption of the New Free Legal Aid Act, the Social Welfare Act 2014 and the 4 year National Policy for gender equality, to further improve and protect women's right to employment and health, and to prevent domestic violence. It welcomed efforts on the rights of the Roma and developing the National Strategy for the inclusion of the Roma 213-2020.

42. Costa Rica commended Croatia for the progress towards a fairer society in terms of access to power, with the Law on Gender Equality, which promotes the participation of women in elected office. Costa Rica motivated Croatia to strengthen Human Rights education programs through the Croatia National Program.

43. Cuba appreciated the implementation of the NPPPHR 2013-2016, the National Policy for Gender Equality 2011-2015 (NPGE); the establishment of the National Committee to Combat Violence in Sport; the adoption of the new Law on Position and Jurisdiction of Courts and Law Jobs and Jurisdiction of State Prosecutors.

44. Cyprus commended measures undertaken by the government of Croatia to implement its international human rights obligations. It particularly welcomed the initiatives undertaken for the promotion of the rights of women and children, as well as measures taken for the elimination of all forms of discrimination.

45. The Czech Republic welcomed the delegation of Croatia and thanked it for its national report and appreciated the response to some of their advance questions.

46. Egypt acknowledged positive developments in institutional and legislative reforms and policy implementation. It welcomed Croatia's efforts in eliminating sexual violence, combating hate speech, enhancing availability and quality of legal aid in the context of the judicial system, the upgrade of the National Human Rights Institution and combating and prevention of torture and ill-treatment in detention centres. Egypt commended the strides in ensuring better representation of women in public and political life.

47. Estonia noted the progress in the area of human rights and in the implementation of most recommendations and commended Croatia for implementing the policy suggestions made during the previous review. They welcomed the entry into force of the Act on the Ombudsman and the adoption of the Asylum Act and Anti-discrimination Act, among others. Estonia acknowledged Croatia's continued endeavours to promote gender equality and stop discrimination against women.

48. France welcomed the ratification of the Hague Adoption Convention in December 2013 and the efforts to recognize "status of civilian victims of the conflict" to the victims of sexual violence during the 1991-1995 war. France wished to know the measures to prevent and suppress hate speech and punish threats against journalists.

49. Georgia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and commended Croatia for the efforts undertaken to strengthen human rights protection at the national level. Georgia asked Croatia to provide information on how the correctional measures had been implemented towards juvenile criminal offenders. They noted steps in respect to the juvenile pretrial detention.

50. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the adoption of progressive legislation on civil partnership, the implementation of the National strategy for Roma inclusion and the Constitutional law on minorities. It recognized the work of the Ombudsman for Disabled Persons, but regretted to see lack of coordination in implementation of the National Strategy for equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

51. Greece noted developments with regard to the rights of women, particularly the Gender Equality Act and the Development Strategy for female entrepreneurship 2014-2020 and commended Croatia for increasing the representation of women. It also commended Croatia for developments in promoting the rights of the child and for efforts to promote the rights of children and the National Strategy on the Rights of Children 2014-2020 (NSRC) as well as efforts on the rights of children with disabilities.

52. Hungary welcomed the steps taken to strengthen the institution of the ombudsman and acknowledged difficulties in allocating more resources. It acknowledged progress in combating discrimination, but noted that challenges remained, particularly with regard to national and ethnic minorities.

53. Indonesia commended Croatia for the measures taken in implementing recommendations from the first UPR review by ratifying the Hague Adoption Convention as well as continuing the NPPHR 2013-2016 and welcomed the emphasises on gender equality. It noted the positive developments in the institutionalization of mentally ill persons, and the implementation of laws to combat human trafficking and protect victims of domestic violence.

54. Iraq noted the progress that had been made in protecting human rights, particularly the adoption of social protection laws and the workplan on minorities. It welcomed measures to combat corruption and domestic violence, to promote the participation of women in public life, and to remove pay inequality between men and women.

55. Ireland welcomed the measures taken to promote inclusive education through the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma (NSIR) and its Action Plan for the inclusion of Roma and to continue its efforts to execute the European Court ruling in the case of *Orsus*. It urged Croatia to increase the capacity of the courts to investigate and prosecute war crimes. It noted the SR on Violence Against Women concerns about the reparations for women victims of wartime violence and the treatment of persons with disabilities, particularly the increasing number of children with disabilities in institutional care and the lack of adequate treatment and care in the institutions.

56. Israel welcomed the delegation of Croatia and thanked it for its national report. It noted the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since its first report to the UPR review. It referred to the Croatian Ombudsperson's and CRC reports in providing its recommendations.

57. Italy commended Croatia for the adoption of the "Protocol on procedures in the case of sexual violence". It took note of the legal framework to protect the rights of persons belonging to minority groups and expressed satisfaction with the level of protection and integration enjoyed by the Italian autochthonous minority in the Istrian county.

58. Kyrgyzstan noted the engagement of Croatia with the United Nations and other international organisations in the area of human rights, particularly OHCHR, the measures taken to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the empowerment of women and the results achieved through the implementation of the National Plan of Activates for the Rights and Interests of Children (2006-2012).

59. Libya applauded Croatia for implementing recommendations from the first review and valued the progress made in protecting human rights. It welcomed the measures taken

in combating racial discrimination, gender equality, domestic violence and violence against women, children rights, rights of persons with disabilities, migrants, trafficking in persons, and asylum seekers. They welcomed measures in the administration of justice and the efforts in reducing the back-log of unresolved cases.

60. Malaysia noted efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework undertaken since the first review. It commended efforts in gender equality and women empowerment as well as in the child rights area through the adoption of the National Strategy on the Right of the Child. It noted challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights, including in combating domestic violence and the negative attitudes and prejudices against ethnic minorities.

61. Maldives welcomed the entry into force of the Act on the Ombudsman, the amendment of the Social Welfare Act and the adoption of the Family Act of 2014. It noted efforts to provide inclusive education for children with disabilities and achievements on the welfare of children. It encouraged coordination between government bodies dealing with welfare of children.

62. Mexico commended Croatia for the entry into force of the free legal aid act and expressed the hope that access to legal aid will be ensured pursuant to the principle of non-discrimination and will include cases of migrants and asylum-seekers. It encouraged Croatia to ensure that the functions of the Ombudsperson receive appropriate support from Parliament and other governmental bodies.

63. Montenegro commended Croatia for its endeavours in relation to the LGBT population and welcomed the adoption of the Life Partnership Act establishing legal rights for same-sex couples by granting them rights such as marriage. It asked about the results achieved and about future plans in the promotion and protection of LGBT rights. Montenegro appreciated efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of the child. They noted progress in reducing the number of children in institutions and strengthening daycare services.

64. Morocco welcomed the measures taken to combat discrimination. It noted the adoption of a national strategy to create a favourable environment for civil society. It congratulated Croatia for the progress made in improving the rights of women and combating domestic violence. It noted the on-going implementation of policies for gender equality.

65. Namibia applauded Croatia for the various efforts undertaken to eliminate discrimination and equality, such as the NPPPHR (2013-2016), the Action Plan for removing barriers to achieving equal rights in the area of integration (2013-2015) and the NPGE.

66. The Netherlands welcomed efforts to achieve gender equality and expressed concern about the level of domestic violence against women. It was concerned over the administrative capacity of the courts to deal with cases of war crime prosecutions, witness support and protection and the speed of investigations and the dealing with the remains. It also expressed concern about the instances of lack of independence of the judiciary, which weakened the rule of law.

67. Nicaragua stated that the human rights situation in Croatia had improved with the adoption of the Gender Equality Act and the ratification of the Hague Adoption Convention, and also the Family Act which governs the rights of the child.

68. Nigeria commended the 2013-2016 NPPPHR and the setup of the Ombudsman. It welcomed the Government efforts to implement anti-discriminatory measures; the promotion of gender equality and the introduction of a mechanism for combating hate crimes. It further commended Croatia for the implementation of the Constitutional Act on

the Rights of National Minorities and noted efforts on prevention project entitled “Living without violence”.

69. Norway commended Croatia for its efforts to improve its legislation against hate crimes and discrimination, Norway stated that incidents of violence, particularly towards Serbs and Roma, remained a serious issue. It was concerned by the number of unresolved cases relating to severe human rights violations during the 90’s war, while the selection of cases remain disproportionately directed against Serbs. They noted the lack of well-adapted system of support to victims of sexual and domestic violence.

70. The Philippines encouraged by the national policy for gender equality that, among others, addresses the wage gap and support for female entrepreneurs, the Philippines encouraged Croatia to include Roma women as beneficiaries of equal treatment. It also appreciated the measures adopted to strengthen the protection of victims of trafficking.

71. Poland thanked the delegation of Croatia for the presentation of its national report and acknowledged the work undertaken in the last years regarding the implementation of international human rights standards.

72. Portugal welcomed Croatia’s commitment to protect and promote human rights, namely since its first UPR report. Portugal particularly highlighted improvements introduced in Croatia’s institutional framework as well as the signing of the OP-CRC-IC.

73. The Republic of Korea welcomed the ratification of the Hague Adoption Convention, the establishment and implementation of the “NPPPHR” and the NSPAFV, as well as the legislation of the new Free Legal Aid Act. They remained concerned with the lack of adequate response to family violence or violence against children.

74. The Republic of Moldova commended progress including through implementing the NPPPHR and strengthening the Ombudsman Office. They acknowledged the activities to increase sensibility in reporting on human trafficking. Noting concerns about unfavourable views towards victims of trafficking among professionals, it was interested in learning more about public awareness activities targeting doctors, prosecutors and judges to better understand the situation of these victims. They noted the NSRC and the incorporation of the Europe Lanzarote Convention in the Criminal Act.

75. Romania welcomed the adoption of various strategies and action plans, such as, the NPGE, the NSIR 2013-2020, and its relevant Action Plan and the measures taken to combat hate crimes. It also noted the positive action carried out in the treatment of persons belonging to minorities and in education.

76. The Russian Federation noted Croatia’s efforts in the implementation of its international obligations with regard to human rights. It also noted that persisting challenges remain as to gender equality, discrimination against the Serb and Roma minorities and rights of people with disabilities.

77. Rwanda commended Croatia for adopting the “Protocol on procedures in the case of sexual violence” and for implementing anti-discrimination measures. It also noted with appreciation that plans for the ratification of the CPED had been initiated. They commended efforts to implement anti-discrimination measures.

78. Serbia acknowledged measures undertaken to protect the rights of members of national minorities, Serbia noted that discrimination still persisted and Serbian minority including returnees and refugees continue to face severe problems. It also stated that accountability for past human rights violations should be ensured and investigations of unresolved cases of enforced disappearances be conducted in impartial and transparent manner.

79. Sierra Leone commended Croatia for drawing up human rights policies and strategies including the NSPAFV, NSRC and the National Health Care Strategy. It urged Croatia to further facilitate the promotion of women, particularly from minority groups, in socio-political spheres and labour market. Sierra Leone also called on Croatia to submit long-term overdue reports to the CESCR and CERD.

80. Slovakia commended efforts strengthening the legal and institutional framework through implementation of the NPPHR and the work of the Office of Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, recognising the focus put on the rights of the child, Slovakia encouraged the authorities to ensure that all children with disabilities and children placed in institutions had equal access to education. It was pleased with the efforts undertaken to integrating persons with disabilities.

81. Slovenia welcomed the positive development in promoting gender equality as well as the rights of women, children and LGBT. It also commended the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson and specialised Ombudsmen for children, gender equality and persons with disabilities.

82. Spain congratulated Croatia on all the measures it has adopted with a view to eradicate violence against women. Spain further commends Croatia for the set of measures taken to ensure the inclusive education for children with disabilities.

83. The State of Palestine welcomed the efforts made in improving the rights of the child and commended Croatia for the steps taken to improve inclusive education. However, it remained concerned that children in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations did not always enjoy equal access to education.

84. Sweden noted that the integration of minorities in the Croatian society had been proven challenging and that Croatia had received the lowest number of asylum seekers in the European Union. It appreciated the recent law aiming at encouraging employers to hire and create jobs for persons with disabilities.

85. Switzerland welcomed the efforts made by Croatia to think critically about the war of the 90's and stated that it was essential to pursue efforts, in particular regarding the crimes committed during this period. It also reiterated its concerns on the protection of the rights of minorities.

86. Thailand commended the numerous legal reforms, such as the Voter Register Act and praised the achievements in promoting gender equality. Thailand encouraged Croatia to continue addressing remaining gender disparities. It remained concerned about domestic violence and noted the lack of resources allocated to the Ombudsperson for persons with disabilities. It welcomed the National Health Care Strategy.

87. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia commended the establishment of the working group for reforming rules to entry in the judicial profession as a means of safeguarding the independence of judiciary. It asked the delegation to expand on concrete steps taken to protect victims of domestic violence and to give information on the progress made on the empowerment of women in political and economic spheres.

88. Timor-Leste commended the adoption of several laws including the LPPMD and welcomed the entry into force the Act on the Ombudsman and noted with appreciation the achievements made to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, Timor-Leste remained concerned about the lack of adequate support systems for victims, particularly the limited access to prevention programmes for children.

89. In the concluding remarks the head of delegation touched upon a number of issues raised by the delegates. Answering to the recommendations on the ratification of conventions, the Minister informed that presently 4 conventions are at different stages of

the process of ratification; the ICPPED, the OP-CRC-IC, the OP-ICESCR and the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention. Concerning the ICRMW, the Minister informed that Croatia is an EU Member State and as such part of the EU policy on migration, therefore will continue functioning within that framework. She also informed that Croatia is providing a ship as part of European efforts in saving refugees in the Mediterranean.

90. On the issue of trafficking in human beings, the Minister addressed the important challenges of human trafficking and elaborated on the education and training efforts that are taking place such as seminars on recognizing the cases of human trafficking and awareness programs. Since Croatia have been identified of being both a country of origin and a country of destination, especially during the tourist season, the Minister further explained how the training of police officers, border guards and communities has been emphasized.

91. Concerning the issue of children in prisons raised by some delegates, the Minister informed that currently there are 65 children in different forms of detention, correction institution or juvenile prisons. The pre-trial detention is being reduced to the shortest possible period, in secured educational facilities where continual psychological, social and health care is being provided.

92. Touching upon an issue from 2010, the overcrowding of prisons, the Minister informed that, by introducing probation for minor offences and community work instead of prison sentences, Croatia's prisons are now slightly below capacity with approximately 3800 prisoners while the capacity is 3900.

93. The Minister explained the specific situation concerning the use of language and Cyrillic script for the Serb minority. She explained the provisions in Croatian law prescribing that when there is 30 % or more of a minority in the community it has the right to the use of its language and script. The government of Croatia has implemented this law not only in areas where the situation is not very controversial but including in areas where it is controversial like in Vukovar which was completely destroyed during the war and obviously with very deep wounds. The Minister explained that the government is fighting opposition to this law in this town and called for cross border cooperation, especially with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, on raising awareness of the importance of minority languages in these sensitive areas.

94. The Minister also responded to the comments on pension for returnees clarifying that returnees have pensions, but the unresolved issue is the pensions of the people who have not returned, who stayed outside of Croatia; this issue is under review and the solution is being sought also with the Serbian government.

95. On the issue of missing persons the Minister informed that there are still 1590 persons in that status, 930 of which are ethnic Croats and 660 ethnic Serbs, but almost all of them from Croatia. Serbia and Croatia, including the foreign head of delegations of the respective countries personally, are working together on this issue.

96. On hate crimes, the Minister informed of the Protocol for Acting in Hate Crime Incidents and on the statistics. In 2014, the police identified 22 cases of hate crime incidents, while the prosecutor's office has acted in 60 cases. 12 cases were solved, 6 of which ended with conviction, the others are still being processed.

97. Finally, the head of delegation touched upon the independence of judiciary stating that Croatian judiciary is completely independent of the state and the government. She specified however that this is not enough as the judiciary also needs to be independent from any other influence outside of the law and rules of procedure and has to function to the highest standards; this is something Croatia is working on.

98. The Head of delegation concluded the session by thanking the President and the delegates for the discussion, recommendations and for raising important issues.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

99. The following recommendations will be examined by Croatia which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 30th session of the Human Rights Council in September/October 2015:

- 99.1. **Joined more human rights treaties and optional protocols (Israel);**
- 99.2. **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) and recognize the competence of its Committee (Uruguay);**
- 99.3. **Ratify the ICPPED (Argentina); /Ratify the ICPPED (France); /Ratify the ICPPED (Costa Rica); /Ratify the ICPPED (Portugal);**
- 99.4. **Ratify without delay the ICPPED (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**
- 99.5. **Accelerate efforts to ratify the ICPPED (Rwanda);**
- 99.6. **Accelerate the progress to ratify the ICPPED (Iraq);**
- 99.7. **Proceed to ratify the ICPPED (Serbia);**
- 99.8. **Intensify efforts to ratify the ICPPED (Sierra Leone);**
- 99.9. **Ratify Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) (Portugal); /Ratify the OP-ICESCR (Greece);**
- 99.10. **Sign and ratify the ICESCR-OP (France);**
- 99.11. **Consider ratifying the OP-ICESCR (Namibia);**
- 99.12. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC) (Morocco); / Ratify the OP-CRC-IC (Portugal); /Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child establishing procedure for submission of communications (OP-CRC-IC) (Benin);**
- 99.13. **Speed up the process of the ratification of the OP-CRC-IC (Slovakia);**
- 99.14. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Kyrgyzstan); /Accede to the ICRMW (Sierra Leone);**
- 99.15. **Consider ratifying the ICRMW (Rwanda); /Consider ratifying ICRMW (Philippines); /Consider ratifying ICRMW (Nicaragua);**
- 99.16. **Consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 on male and female domestic workers (Nicaragua); /Consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);**
- 99.17. **Sign and ratify relevant international instruments relating to refugees and asylum- seekers (Benin);**

**Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited

- 99.18. **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Netherlands); /Accede to the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Turkey); /Ratify the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Austria);**
- 99.19. **Ensure rapid ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Italy);**
- 99.20. **Strengthen its efforts to properly respond to allegations of domestic violence, including by training police officers, prosecutors and judges, and to ensure that women victims of violence obtain adequate redress and support (Austria);**
- 99.21. **Approve the budgetary funds needed to assume the obligations under the Convention of the Council of Europe on the prevention and the fight against violence against women and domestic violence, and therefore proceed to its ratification (Spain);**
- 99.22. **Take concrete measures to fight all forms of violence against women, including by ratifying the Istanbul Convention (Germany);**
- 99.23. **Recognize the competence of the Committee on elimination of racial discrimination in a pursuing to article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Algeria);**
- 99.24. **Continue to strengthen its human rights framework, including through giving full implementation to existing institutional and legal protections (Australia);**
- 99.25. **Review compliance of the Criminal Code, which now defines domestic violence only as a bodily injury, with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as elaborated on in the General Recommendation No.19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Czech Republic);**
- 99.26. **Strengthen the legislation suppressing advocating crimes against humanity and ensure the training of judges on its application, as well as the issues of civic education in public schools (France);**
- 99.27. **Strengthen legal framework in order to reduce the adverse effects affecting victims of domestic violence, in particular women (Angola);**
- 99.28. **Address the legislative gap that relates to domestic violence offences and updates the Criminal Code to recognise domestic violence as a criminal offence (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 99.29. **Translate the initiatives of the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence 2011-2016 and National Anti-Discrimination Plan 2008-2013 into concrete laws (Indonesia);**
- 99.30. **Redouble efforts aimed at the implementation of legal provisions against domestic and gender violence, with particular attention to the raising of awareness and proper training of the police (Mexico);**
- 99.31. **Address remaining legislative and implementation gaps, including to fully protect and support victims (Australia);**

- 99.32. Amend the social welfare act and other laws which deny persons with disabilities their right to work or which allow their placement in institutions without their consent (Mexico);
- 99.33. Decriminalizing defamation (Estonia);
- 99.34. Review the legislation on defamation and strengthen the training for judges on the implementation of freedom of expression (France);
- 99.35. Consider reviewing its Aliens Act in favour of temporary residents on humanitarian grounds (Nigeria);
- 99.36. Intensify efforts at improving and strengthening its human rights institutions (Nigeria);
- 99.37. Increase the human and financial resources made available to the office of the Ombudsperson to enable it to fulfil its expanded mandate (Sierra Leone);
- 99.38. Allocate the necessary resources to ensure the effective operation of the Office of the Ombudsman (Timor-Leste);
- 99.39. Even if only in a modest and gradual way, increase the personnel and financial allocations to the ombudsman in order to ensure that the stronger legal position of the office is also reflected in its human and financial capacities (Hungary);
- 99.40. Explore ways of provision the necessary resources to ensure the independent and effective operation of the Ombudsman's Office (Ukraine);
- 99.41. Consider establishing an inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for coordinating the drafting of the national reports to the Treaty Bodies (Portugal);
- 99.42. Finalize the draft Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Corruption and effectively prosecute the perpetrators of corruption acts (Turkey);
- 99.43. Implement and apply human rights legislation in practice as well as implement ombudsman's recommendations (Slovenia);
- 99.44. Consider developing Human Rights Indicators, as suggested by the OHCHR, as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);
- 99.45. Continue implementing its various national programmes and policies, in particular "National Programme for the protection and promotion of human rights 2013-2016" and "Action Plan for removing barriers to achieving equal rights in the area of integration 2013-2015" (Indonesia);
- 99.46. Ensure the effective implementation of the new National Strategy for the Rights of Children 2014-2020 (State of Palestine);
- 99.47. Accelerate the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its harmonization at the national level (Uruguay);
- 99.48. Intensify awareness raising campaigns and education programmes on human rights in order to prevent ill-treatment of boys and girls (Uruguay);

- 99.49. Take all necessary measures to deter perpetrators and to develop programmes and policies in order to prevent sexual exploitation as well as programmes to socially reintegrate child victims (Timor-Leste);
- 99.50. Develop a policy, strategy and action plan to address the reportedly widespread violence against women (Sierra Leone);
- 99.51. Effectively implement the “National strategy for protection against domestic violence 2011-2016” (Republic of Korea);
- 99.52. Intensify its efforts to ensure effective law enforcement for domestic violence against children and women, to bridge the gap between legislation and practice along with enhancing awareness of victims’ rights and training for public officers and legal professions (Thailand);
- 99.53. Step-up efforts to effectively implement national strategies for gender equality (Morocco);
- 99.54. Continue efforts to generate greater inter-institutional coordination and availability of resources for the agencies responsible for the welfare of minor girls and boys (Chile);
- 99.55. Strengthen the national plan for combating discrimination through the incorporation of indicators and monitoring measures, through determination of the authorities responsible for its implementation, and through a time-frame for achievement of the goals (Mexico);
- 99.56. Promote inter-ethnic tolerance through adequate measures, including awareness raising campaigns in the media in close cooperation with civil society and minority associations (Serbia);
- 99.57. Undertake awareness campaigns directed towards the judiciary with a view of promoting non-discrimination (Norway);
- 99.58. Dedicate additional resources to enhance the capacity of centres for victims of sexual and domestic violence (Norway);
- 99.59. Continue with its efforts in further increasing the awareness of the gender equality and equal opportunities and foster implementation of its national policies in this regard (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);
- 99.60. Continue strengthening the programmes developed for the promotion of employment, right to food and social assistance for national minorities and other vulnerable sectors of the population (Venezuela (Bolivian Republic of));
- 99.61. Establish a sustainable cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and Civil Society Organisations dealing with domestic and gender based violence (Poland);
- 99.62. Continue the implementation of the “Plan on de-institutionalisation and transformation of social welfare homes and other legal persons performing social welfare activities for 2011-2016”, with a view to reduce the number of children in institutions (Slovakia);
- 99.63. Consider allocating necessary resources to support programmes which promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Thailand);
- 99.64. Include civil society organisations in the process before finalising and submitting the National Report (Norway);

- 99.65. **Submit its overdue reports to the human rights monitoring bodies (Portugal);**
- 99.66. **Submit its second periodic national report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which has been due since 2006 (Republic of Korea);**
- 99.67. **Strengthen efforts towards promotion of gender equality (Cyprus);**
- 99.68. **Take further steps to ensure and enhance women's rights in all levels (Greece);**
- 99.69. **Enhance efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women and gender-based violence (Italy);**
- 99.70. **Fully ensure gender equality in employment and in political posts (Russian Federation);**
- 99.71. **Adopt specific legislation pertaining to gender discrimination in the labour market, including sexual harassment in the workplace and discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy and/or maternity (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 99.72. **Ensure the elimination of any form of discrimination against children, especially children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations (Turkey);**
- 99.73. **Eliminate discrimination in employment, particularly for women and members of the Roma population, pursuant to recommendations of ILO supervisory bodies; (United States of America);**
- 99.74. **Strengthen non-discrimination against women, particularly in the workplace (Algeria);**
- 99.75. **Intensify efforts to detect, prevent and combat trafficking in children for sexual and other types of exploitation (Uruguay);**
- 99.76. **Step up fight against racism, xenophobia, hate speech and adopt measures to promote poverty reduction, social inclusion and social assistance (Angola);**
- 99.77. **Strengthen human rights protections for LGBT persons, in line with Croatia's international obligations and commitments as well as with domestic legislation (United States of America);**
- 99.78. **Continue to further improve the conditions for juveniles in pretrial detention facilities (Georgia);**
- 99.79. **Continue its efforts to reduce overcrowding in prisons and improve detention conditions, including by promoting diversion and other alternatives to detention where possible (Austria);**
- 99.80. **Step up efforts to combat the overcrowding of prisons, and in particular provide more correctional detention facilities for female prisoners (Republic of Korea);**
- 99.81. **Implement programmes and policies for the prevention of all forms of violence against children, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and to strengthen social recovery and reintegration of child victims (Republic of Moldova);**

- 99.82. Continue ensuring effective implementation of its domestic laws on the protection of the family and prevention of violence against women and children (Israel);
- 99.83. Reinforce its efforts to protect children, especially those in marginalized and disadvantaged situations (Maldives);
- 99.84. Double efforts in combating domestic violence and violence against women including through ensuring effective implementation of the National Strategy of Protection against Domestic Violence 2011-2016 (Malaysia);
- 99.85. Further strengthen measures to prevent and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children with the prosecution of offenders and rehabilitation of victims (Venezuela (Bolivian Republic of));
- 99.86. Implement the Human Rights Committee's March 2015 recommendations on gender-based violence (Bulgaria);
- 99.87. Work towards the compliance of pre-trial detention (remand) procedures which includes children with international law standards and national regulations (Libya);
- 99.88. Investigate and prosecute all cases of arbitrary detention in psychiatric hospitals and social care institution, in line with the recommendation made by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (Germany);
- 99.89. Increase the number of investigations, intensify the investigative work and improve the efficiency of judicial procedures before national courts in the case of crimes committed during the war of the 90s and strengthen the efforts to determine the fate of all missing persons in Croatia (Switzerland);
- 99.90. Investigate all unresolved cases of missing persons and bring perpetrators to justice (Estonia);
- 99.91. Enhance training methods for collecting evidence against suspected human traffickers to increase successful prosecutions, and ensure convicted trafficking offenders are punished with sentences commensurate with the gravity of the crime (United States of America);
- 99.92. Take urgent steps to ensure that women victims of wartime violence have access to justice and reparation, including adequate psychosocial and economic support as well as access to health-care services (Ireland);
- 99.93. Improve services and support for women victims of domestic violence by conducting effective investigations, vigorously prosecuting the perpetrators, ending the practice of prosecuting victims, and ensuring victims have access to protection and shelters (Canada);
- 99.94. Tackle the subject of torture in a comprehensive way, including fighting impunity and providing for compensation of victims (Costa Rica);
- 99.95. Prosecute all cases of human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity in a non-discriminatory and impartial manner, in consistence with the requirements under the ICCPR (Serbia);
- 99.96. Continue working particularly with regard to protection of the rights of victims of sexual violence and domestic violence, in particular through training of health, police and judicial personnel (Uruguay);

- 99.97. Further step up its efforts to investigate and prosecute effectively war crimes and strengthen the capacity of domestic courts and witness protection mechanisms in this regards (Czech Republic);
- 99.98. Enhance the capacity of domestic courts and witness protection mechanisms so as to improve the efficiency in domestic war crimes prosecutions (Austria);
- 99.99. Increase the administrative capacity of courts to a sufficient level, to provide adequate support and protection to witnesses, to accelerate the investigation and prosecution of war crimes and to take the necessary steps to excavate all known mass/ common graves and to identify all the remains (Netherlands);
- 99.100. Continue and deepen the measures necessary for the investigation and punishment in the courts of persons suspected of participation in war crimes and crimes against humanity (Argentina);
- 99.101. Demonstrate a clear track record of war crime cases which shows standardise sentencing through a fair and non-discriminatory process (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 99.102. Ensure accountability for all manifestations of ethnic based hate speech, racism and extremist rhetoric in the public sphere (Serbia);
- 99.103. Ensure efficient, non-discriminatory investigations and timely prosecutions as part of the enforcement of hate crime legislation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 99.104. Give impetus to accelerate the regional process on the question of thousands of persons who are still missing, which is vital for the rule of law as well as for the regional reconciliation (France);
- 99.105. Continue the actions undertaken in the criminal processing of war crimes (France);
- 99.106. Continue ensuring the prosecution of cases of hate crimes (Israel);
- 99.107. Take effective measures to investigate and prosecute war crimes, including rape and other sexual abuse, and ensure that war crimes trials are carried out expeditiously and fairly by an independent and impartial tribunal (Canada);
- 99.108. Step up its efforts to curb domestic violence (Philippines);
- 99.109. Promote policies and educational campaigns for the promotion and protection of the rights of women, and ensure that all allegations of violence against women are promptly, thoroughly and effectively investigated, that perpetrators are held accountable and that women victims of violence obtain adequate redress, including compensation and rehabilitation (Brazil);
- 99.110. Continue to provide adequate funding to its anti-human trafficking programmes and free legal aid system (Philippines);
- 99.111. Strengthen the accountability and prosecution of law enforcement officers who commit abuse against LGBT persons and ethnic persons (Chile);
- 99.112. Continue to realize the right to work for its citizens including through providing opportunities for vocational training and technical education for young people (Egypt);

- 99.113. Continue working for the reduction of female unemployment and the elimination of discrimination against them in the labour market and for achieving equality of opportunities (Cuba);
- 99.114. Strengthen efforts on the empowerment of women by implementing programmes aimed at changing society's perception of women and removing barriers affecting the employment of women (Malaysia);
- 99.115. Continue effectively the implementation of the action plan on employment for minorities groups to achieve the set targets. (China);
- 99.116. Continue its efforts to reach the threshold of 5,5 percent share of minorities in the total number of employees in line with the "Action Plan for the employment of national minorities in SAB 2011-2014" in particular in those regions where minorities have significant presence (Hungary);
- 99.117. Take measures to safeguard the right to an adequate standard of living, including by expediting the return of Croatian Serbs to their homes and by upholding commitments under the Regional Housing Program (Canada);
- 99.118. Continue ensuring the full realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all (Egypt);
- 99.119. Strengthen the welfare system, particularly related to the protection of children without appropriate care and their access to education (Slovenia);
- 99.120. Realize the right to adequate housing by ensuring the right of post-war returnees to recover privately owned housing, regardless of their ethnic background, and by improving housing conditions in returnee communities (Germany);
- 99.121. Take further measures with a view to ensure that all children enjoy equal access to health services (Ukraine);
- 99.122. Take steps to ensure adequate support and access to healthcare facilities, for those in rural areas (Maldives);
- 99.123. Work towards more balanced geographical coverage of healthcare services with specific focus on rural areas (Egypt);
- 99.124. Adopt clear appropriate measures to improve the rights of children to education (Libya);
- 99.125. Establish State-wide inclusive education, including through the allocation of necessary resources, and provide regular training for school personnel (State of Palestine);
- 99.126. Ensure that children in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations have equal access to education (Armenia);
- 99.127. Continue its efforts aimed at ensuring equal access to education, including to children in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations (Romania);
- 99.128. Increase its efforts to ensure that children in vulnerable situations, including Roma children, have equal access to education and to end segregation of Roma children in schools (Austria);
- 99.129. Intensify efforts towards providing all children with equal access to education, including the Roma children (Nigeria);

- 99.130. Consider ensuring an effective inclusive education for children with disabilities, and to improve universal design to ensure accessibility to everyone (Israel);
- 99.131. Elaborate integrated measures to ensure unimpeded access for persons with disabilities (Russian Federation);
- 99.132. Take all necessary measures to lift all existing barriers in the enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to their right to live independently, to have access to adequate health care services and to be integrated in the community (Greece);
- 99.133. Develop further actions to improve community services and support for persons with disabilities (Cuba);
- 99.134. Ensure that services for persons with disabilities support to the greatest extent possible their independence and that more community-based living choices are created for them in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Czech Republic);
- 99.135. Take all appropriate measures to ensure the rights of people with mental or intellectual disabilities (Cyprus);
- 99.136. Provide facilities to ensure that persons with disabilities can live independently, have access to public and private buildings and have equal opportunities to education, employment and health services, with a support structure particularly for children so challenged (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 99.137. Refrain from institutionalising children with disabilities, and ensure sufficient alternative family and community based care options for children with disabilities (Ireland);
- 99.138. Monitor the implementation and ensure compliance with the Law on Vocational Rehabilitation to make sure that persons with disabilities are not subject to discrimination and have equal opportunities to find employment (Sweden);
- 99.139. Provide comprehensive care to victims of landmines and cluster munitions, by applying the convention in their development plans and by the application of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (Costa Rica);
- 99.140. Continue to develop measures that guarantee inclusive education for children and girls with disabilities without discrimination, with particular emphasis on rural areas (Spain);
- 99.141. Adopt further measures in order to ensure the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the decision-making process (Romania);
- 99.142. Take all necessary measures to provide equal access to all public services for all members of minority groups in the country (Namibia);
- 99.143. Take effective measures to end all forms of discrimination against ethnic minorities, in particular the Serb minority and Sinti and Roma (Germany);
- 99.144. Continue its efforts to combat discrimination and ensure equal treatment of all ethnicities and minorities (Ukraine);

- 99.145. Fully recognise the situation of the minority groups and take ample action in order to meet these challenges, including combatting discrimination against minority groups, not least the Serb and Roma minorities (Sweden);
- 99.146. Fully ensure linguistic, religious and other rights of minorities, in compliance with international obligations (Russian Federation);
- 99.147. In light of the recommendation of the CRC, act on combating discrimination by targeting situations of discrimination and vulnerability affecting children belonging to all minorities (Nicaragua);
- 99.148. Continue work for improving the rights of Roma community, in compliance with National Strategy for the inclusion of Roma and the Action Plan of the Decade of Roma inclusion (Albania);
- 99.149. Step up existing efforts towards the protection of the rights of minorities, especially by fighting discrimination against children of Roma descent in the field of education, and by guaranteeing the right to adequate housing of the Serbian minority (Brazil);
- 99.150. Intensify its efforts to promote inter-ethnic harmony through education, and implement concrete measures for the integration of minorities into the Croatian society (Norway);
- 99.151. Continue efforts to facilitate professional, social and economic inclusion of all national and ethnic and other minority groups, including the Serbian minority, represented in Croatia (Poland);
- 99.152. Take measures aimed at the increase of the representation of minority groups in public and private sphere (Armenia);
- 99.153. Ensure that the Serbian minority is not discriminated against in the provision of posts in the public sector and in real estate acquisitions or rental application (Switzerland);
- 99.154. Take further concrete and effective steps towards protection and social inclusion for all minority groups (Australia);
- 99.155. Enhance efforts to fight discriminatory attitudes and behaviours against all persons belonging to minority groups, including by allowing the use of one's own language at school and in interaction with the public administration (Italy);
- 99.156. Fully implement the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and take action to implement Constitutional Court decisions regarding the Act on Usage of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities (Canada);
- 99.157. Provide full respect of minority rights guaranteed by positive legislation, including the right to use minority language and script, specifically the Cyrillic script (Serbia);
- 99.158. Continue to implement the state policy on immigration, constantly adjust and improve the policies and measures according to the new situations of the protection of the rights of migrants. (China);
- 99.159. Review its asylum procedures to increase the efficiency of the asylum granting processes and ensure the protection of unaccompanied migrant children (Sweden);

99.160. Further sensitise the Croatian public to asylum question, in order to facilitate the integration of asylum seekers (Sweden);

99.161. Continue its efforts to meet the benchmarks of the Action plan regarding the building of the housing units for the returnees (Albania);

99.162. Adopt measures that guarantee access to rights for all people returning to the country irrespective of the cessation of the condition of refugees (Argentina);

99.163. Continue to implement the obligations deriving from Sarajevo Declaration vis-à-vis successful integration of the refugees, and to further accelerate the implementation of the existing national Housing Care Program (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

99.164. Give more priority to returnee communities for economic development initiatives, that returnees are given easier access to social welfare systems and to take effective measures to recognize their years of work and right to pension (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

99.165. Ensure for the asylum-seeking children the effective and non-discriminatory access to education (Kyrgyzstan);

99.166. Protect the rights of minorities, in particular by providing access to basic services for the Roma minority, including the ability for stateless Roma to obtain the Croatian nationality, in accordance with its human rights obligations (Switzerland);

5.167. Continue ongoing efforts, both nationally and in their bilateral dialogue with Serbia, to ensure the return of refugees and displaced Croatian of Serb origin to their homes and the recovery of all their rights, especially with regard to their property, pensions and social rights, thereby ensuring a comprehensive solution to a problem that affects both Croatian of Serb origin as Serbs of Croatian origin (Spain).

100. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

111. The Republic of Croatia took this opportunity to announce that the UPR Mid - Term Review will be prepared, in order to address the level of implementation of all received recommendations from the second cycle.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Croatia was headed by H.E. Ms. Vesna Pusić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- **H.E. Ms. Vesna Vuković**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations in Geneva;
- **Ms. Vesna Batistić Kos**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Mr. Krešo Glavač**, Head of Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Ms. Danijela Barišić**, Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Mr. Ivan Crnčec**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Mr. Branko Sočanac**, Director, Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Mr. Dražen Vitez**, Deputy of General Police Director for General Police Matters, Ministry of Interior;
- **Ms. Dubravka Marušić**, Head of Sector for Social Policy and Policies for Children, Youth and Family, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Ms. Ana Puljić Žunjić**, Head of the Division for Human Rights and Regional International Organisations and Initiatives, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Ms. Zvezdana Janičar**, Head of Service for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth;
- **Mr. Josip Paradžik**, Senior Advisor Specialist, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Ms. Romana Kuzmanić Oluić**, Counsellor, Division for Human Rights and Regional International Organisations and Initiatives, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Ms. Tatjana Vlašić**, Adviser, Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Ms. Ivana Kožar Schenck**, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations in Geneva;
- **Ms. Katarina Andrić**, Attaché, Division for Human Rights and Regional International Organisations and Initiatives, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia;
- **Mr. Tomislav Boršić**, Expert Assistant, Department for Cooperation with International Criminal and Other International Courts, Directorate for European Affairs, International and Judicial Cooperation, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia.

