



CROATIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

GENEVA

Statement by

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the Universal Periodic Review**

Review of Eritrea

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Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the delegation of Eritrea and thank them for the presentation of their report.

Croatia welcomes the Government's commitment to the education of girls as well as its efforts aimed at achieving the MDG's on gender equality. We welcome the steps the Government has taken with a view to curbing the harmful practice of female genital mutilation.

Croatia is, however, very concerned about the prevailing high rates of the FGM in the country, especially in the Southern and Northern Red Sea region. We are also concerned about the non-recognition of conscientious objection to military service in the country as well as about the impact the practice of an indefinite military service has on children and society as a whole.

We would like to give following recommendations:

1. Intensify efforts and allocate resources for measures aimed at eradicating the female genital mutilation, as a matter of priority.
2. Recognise the right to conscientious objection to military service in law and practice;
3. End the practice of indefinite national service and allow substitute service for conscientious objectors;
4. Take appropriate steps with a view to releasing all imprisoned conscientious objectors without delay;
5. Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and take steps to fully align the national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including by adopting provisions aimed at thorough and expeditious cooperation with the ICC, as well as effective investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes before national courts;

Let me end my statement by wishing the delegation of Eritrea a successful review and the implementation of recommendations for the benefit of its people.

Thank you.