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CROATIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

GENEVA

Statement by

H.E. Vesna Vuković

Ambassador

Permanent Representative

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**Eighteenth Session of the Working Group
on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of the former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia**

Geneva, 30 January 2014

Mr. President,

I would like to start by extending a warm welcome to H.E. and his delegation and to thank them for the presentation of their comprehensive report.

We welcome the steps taken regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR cycle, especially those aimed at strengthening the independence of judiciary as well as enhancing their efficiency on national level.

- We would like to ask your delegation to further elaborate on the concrete measures that have been taken in this regard, as well as on the impact of the new legislation on the reduction of the backlog of judicial cases?

Croatia welcomes the legislative improvements undertaken in the country with a view of ensuring the protection of its citizens from all forms of discrimination. We would like to commend the Government for setting its priorities on fostering good inter-ethnic relations founded on the principles of mutual tolerance and respect.

- Could you provide additional information on concrete measures taken by your Government with a view to guaranteeing full protection of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identities of all communities in the country?

I would once again like to commend your Government for the progress achieved and wish you a successful review session.