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**Statement by**

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**20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the  
Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of the Republic of Slovenia**

**Geneva, 4 November 2014**

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the Republic of Slovenia and thank them for the presentation of their comprehensive report.

Croatia welcomes the steps taken by the Slovenian Government regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR cycle, especially those related to the strengthening of the legislative framework, including the new regulation on trafficking in human beings and on the war crimes within the recently amended Criminal Code.

We commend Slovenian efforts in the promotion and protection of the rights of the most vulnerable social groups, which is reflected, among others, in the renewal of the existing National program for children as well as in the adoption of a new 2014 Program for disabled persons.

As a neighbouring country, Croatia follows with a great interest Slovenian determination in the protection of the LGBTI persons.

We have two recommendations:

1. Adopt the same sex partnership act in order to further improve the rights of the LGBTI persons.
2. Take further steps for the ratification of several international treaties in the field of human rights that were signed by Slovenia since the first UPR cycle.

Mr. President,

We would like to ask Slovenian representatives whether they intend to re-establish the former Office for Equal Opportunities, which was closed down in April 2012 or do you deem sufficient the current level of a protection against discrimination in Slovenia provided by the existing institutional framework?

I would once again like to commend the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the progress achieved and wish them a successful review session.

Thank you.