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PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE AT GENEVA



MISSION PERMANENT DE LA BOSNIE-  
HERZEGOVINE AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES  
NATIONS UNIES A GENEVE

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
THE 22<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP  
Consideration of the UPR Working Group on Croatia

Geneva, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015

I would like to thank H.E. Vesna Pusic for the interesting presentation of the National Report with a particular emphasis on the follow up of accepted recommendations from its first review.

Bosnia and Herzegovina makes the following observations and recommendations:

1. In the scope of international obligations, we recommend that Croatia ratifies without delay the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
2. With regard to the issue of refugees, we recommend that Croatia continues 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.
3. We share the UNHCR's concerns that 15% of Serb minority returnees do not have access to potable running water, 33 % live in villages without paved roads and 40 % did not have access to public transportation. According to UNHCR, the unemployment rate among minority returnees was 68 %, which is 3.6 times higher than the national average. Serbian returnees struggle to obtain social and pension rights. With regard to pension rights, they face problems in

obtaining recognition of the years of work in period 1990.-1995. Over 60.000 people have lost their jobs, pension, labor and social status.

Therefore we recommend that Croatia gives 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.

4. We share the view of the Human Rights Committee that persons belonging to national minorities face problems in enjoying their rights to use their own language, particularly Cyrillic. We recommend that Croatia undertakes additional measures to promote inter-ethnic tolerance as well as to provide full implementation for the right to equal usage of minority languages and scripts.

I thank you Mr. President.