

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



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Republic of Croatia**

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Croatia to the second cycle of the UPR, and thanks it for its national report.

We commend Croatia for strengthening its national legal and institutional human rights framework, over recent years, an example of which is the entry into force of the Act On the Ombudsman in 2011, which also performs the function of a national preventive mechanism. In the same vein, the entry into force of the Act on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities is a very welcome development.

Brazil would like to make the following two recommendations to Croatia:

(1) 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;

(2) 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.

I thank you, Mr. President