

Universal Periodic Review 22– Croatia

Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the government of Croatia for its report and thanks the delegation for its introduction [and for addressing our advance questions].

We welcome the efforts of Croatia pertaining to the achievement of gender equality, notably the adoption of national legislation and several action plans.

The Netherlands recommends Croatia:

1. to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;
2. to increase the administrative capacity of courts to a sufficient level, to provide adequate support and protection to witnesses, to accelerate the investigation and prosecution of war crimes and to take the necessary steps to excavate all known mass/common graves and to identify all the remains.

We make these recommendations because we remain concerned about the level of domestic violence against women.

Also, since its last UPR in 2010, war crimes prosecutions have improved, but concerns remain with the administrative capacity of courts to effectively deal with cases, witness support and protection, the speed of investigations and the dealing with remains.

More in general it remains a concern that instances of lack of independence of the judiciary weaken the rule of law.

Thank you Mr. President