

Closing remarks

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we approach the end of a very enriching discussion, I would like on behalf of my delegation and myself to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the member states for their participation in our second Universal Periodic Review and in particular the constructive and cooperative spirit that you have shown throughout the session. We are encouraged by the expressions of appreciation and support.

In closing, I would also like to thank all of the delegations that have asked questions of or made recommendations to Croatia during this interactive session.

For us, UPR is an important opportunity to reflect on the human rights situation in Croatia and to renew our determination that in the fields of human rights we can always achieve more. We are proud of the progress made, however we also see this process as an opportunity to improve.

Preparing for our second UPR has given us an opportunity to reflect upon how best to protect and promote human rights in Croatia. In particular, it has highlighted the position of those who are most marginalised and vulnerable in Croatian society.

I hope that my presentation and the ensuing interactive dialogue have been mutually enriching. It allowed us to assess our human rights activities, to reaffirm our commitment, compliance and adherence to human rights norms and values and has enabled the UN Member States to get a deeper insight and better understanding of the human rights situation in Croatia.

Due to time constraints, we may not have responded to all questions raised during the interactive dialogue, but I wish to assure you that we will give due consideration to all of them and we may try to provide responses either during the adoption of the outcome report or in our next mid-term report.

At the same time, we are confident that the outcome of today's review will contribute towards Croatia's constant efforts in further enhancing the enjoyment of the full spectrum of human rights of its people.

All Croatia Government ministries will be informed on recommendations made to Croatia in this session.

In parallel, we intend to disseminate the outcome of the review broadly and to consult extensively with the Croatian Human Rights Committee and non-government organisations, reflecting on the UPR process and to consider how recommendations can best be addressed.

We also intend to make the recommendations publicly accessible, ensuring that recommendations are easily accessible to regional and local levels and to civil society.

We firmly believe that enhanced awareness and understanding of the international human rights processes in which Croatia participates will lead to more effective protection and promotion of human rights in Croatia.

I would like to conclude by thanking all delegations present who have participated in Croatia's second UPR. We hope that our responses today demonstrate Croatia's ongoing commitment to multilateral engagement and human rights.

Let me again reassure you of the continued support of Croatia to the work of the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism.

We will continue to pursue a policy of active cooperation with international organizations and their respective bodies and institutions in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Thank you.