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# CROATIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

GENEVA

**Statement by**

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Croatia to the UN**

*Check against delivery*

**MS. IVANA KOZAR SCHENCK**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Working Group on  
the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Myanmar**

Geneva, 6 November 2015

Mr. President,

The Republic of Croatia welcomes the delegation of Myanmar and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

Croatia welcomes the Governments' efforts in promoting a democratic transition as well as its commitment to establish a full respect for human rights and to work against the discrimination of ethnic and religious minorities. However, we recognize huge challenges ahead.

The parliamentary elections will define the future basis of Myanmar's democracy. We encourage all stakeholders to turn transparent, inclusive and participatory elections into a contribution to Myanmar's further democratization and peace.

Mr. President,

For the future stability and prosperity of Myanmar, we offer these recommendations:

1. Croatia commended the Government for the release of 11 prisoners of conscience at the end of July 2015. **We strongly encourage the authorities to free all remaining prisoners of conscience and to put an end to practices that fuel arbitrary arrests.**
2. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict,**
3. **Take further steps towards the establishment of the OHCHR country office in Myanmar.**
4. Myanmar has a de-facto moratorium on the death penalty in place. **We encourage the Government to translate this commendable practice into binding law, with a view to completely abolish the death penalty altogether.**

Thank you.