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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

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(after 17.00)

Statement by

H.E. Vesna Batistić Kos

Check against delivery

Ambassador

Permanent Representative

**Twenty-fourth Session of the Working
Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

Review of Estonia

Geneva, 19 January 2016

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a **warm welcome** to the delegation of the Republic of Estonia and thank them for the presentation of their comprehensive report.

Croatia commends the **adoption of the new Child Protection Act** which entered into force on 1st of January 2016 and further strengthening of the standards of the protection of the rights of child, especially the ensured protection from corporal punishment and the improvement of effective child protection services.

We are pleased that Estonia fulfilled its commitment given during the first UPR cycle that it would enact a new law which would ban **corporal punishment** explicitly.

We would like to encourage the Government to accelerate efforts for the protection of children from **school violence and bullying**, as well as to consider the ratification of international instruments relating to statelessness.

Therefore, allow us to address you with two recommendations:

1. Continue with efforts **to prevent violence against children** at schools and other institutions where children are present, to ensure that children are aware of their right to be protected from all forms of violence and the assistance provided if they are victims of violence.
2. Consider ratifying the **1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness**.

Croatia would once again like to compliment the Government of the Republic of Estonia for the progress achieved and wish you a successful review session.

Thank you.