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**44th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**13 November 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia thanks the delegation of the Russian Federation for the presentation of their report.

We take note of the national Strategy for the Comprehensive Safety of Children. We encourage authorities to address the structural discrimination of Roma children and to criminalize child and forced marriages, including bride kidnappings.

We have three recommendations:

* Bring legislation governing public assemblies and relevant policing practice in line with Russia’s human rights obligations, including by lifting all undue restrictions and ensuring that law enforcement agencies do not use unnecessary force against protestors.
* Stop the practice of illegal deportations of Ukrainian children to Russian territory and ensure their immediate and safe return to their homeland.
* Conduct investigations into all allegations of illegal detention of military personnel, including mobilized reservists, for refusing to participate in the hostilities, including for reasons of conscience, and immediately release any such detainees, including conscientious objectors to military service.

Thank you, Mr. President.