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**48th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF SLOVENIA**

**28 January 2025**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mr President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of Slovenia and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

We would like to commend Slovenia’s progress in the field of women’s rights and empowerment, as well as gender equality. We emphasise the importance of the outcomes of the project ‘Click-off! Stop cyber violence against women and girls’, which has strongly contributed to social awareness of the global omnipresence of this problem.

We support Slovenia’s efforts in establishing and enforcing a special juvenile criminal code, which will take into consideration the principle of non-discrimination and the best interests of the child.

However, we regret a lack of any progress regarding the rights of the Croatian minority, the largest autochthonous national minority in Slovenia.

*The Act on implementation of cultural rights for members of national communities of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Republic of Slovenia* is limited to “cultural rights” and does not represent an adequate legal framework for the Croatian community, which, according to international law, meets all criteria to be recognized as an autochthonous national minority.

Substantial steps need to be undertaken by Slovenian authorities to ensure the implementation of the best practice standards to the Croatian minority in Slovenia.

Therefore, we have the following recommendations:

1. **Further enhance the implementation of minority rights standards, including all necessary steps to recognize the Croatian community as an autochthonous national minority and grant it the rights deriving from this status that have already been given to the Italian and Hungarian communities.**
2. **Strengthen the measures to combat all forms of racism, hate speech, and discrimination.**

Croatia wishes Slovenia a successful review session. Thank you.