**28th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF UKRAINE**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

We extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Ukraine and thank them for the presentation of their report.

Croatia welcomes the establishment of the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs in 2016, with its important role of coordinating the Government’s policy towards reintegration and peace-building in the temporarily occupied territories and Donbas, protection of the IDPs and implementation of International humanitarian law in Ukraine.

Furthermore, we welcome the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality in 2017, with the mandate to ensure that women and men in Ukraine have equal rights and opportunities.

However, we regret to see that the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs lacks adequate resources, including financial and human resources, to fulfil its mandate.

As per findings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, we remained concerned at the persistence in political discourse, in the media and in society of patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family, as well as with the prevalence of violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence, which remains underreported.

Allow us to address Ukraine with two recommendations:

1. We encourage the Government of Ukraine to increase the human and financial resources of the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs in order to fully achieve its mandate.

2. We suggest to the Government of Ukraine to take measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished.

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

Thank you.