**38th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF BELGIUM**

**5 May 2021**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

We welcome the efforts of the Belgium Government in developing policy initiatives aimed at combating racism and discrimination.

We acknowledge Government’s measures taken to increase reporting on violence against women, including female genital mutilation.

Croatia encourages Belgium to continue addressing sexual violence against children.

We have three recommendations:

1. **Strengthen the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, including through awareness raising campaigns.**
2. **Take further policy steps and provide appropriate training to police to combat racial and ethnic profiling.**
3. **Establish a National Preventive Mechanism that can monitor all places where people are deprived of their liberty.**

Croatia wishes Belgium a successful review session.

Thank you.