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

**REVIEW OF SIERRA LEONE**

**12 May 2021**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

We welcome Government’s efforts in addressing alarming increase in sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in 2017 which provided transmission of citizenship also by mothers.

We are concerned about an increase in the number of children detained in deplorable conditions, some of which have been detained for several years without charge. We urge the Government to adopt child-friendly approaches, such as alternatives to detention.

We have three recommendations:

1. Strengthen your efforts in addressing rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, by ensuring accountability and providing support to victims.
2. Implement educational campaigns against FGM and early and forced marriages aimed at all stakeholders, and enact legislation aimed at eradicating these harmful practices.
3. In collaboration with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, ensure a verified, comprehensive and publicly accessible record of all casualties of armed conflict.

Croatia wishes Sierra Leone a successful review session.

Thank you.