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

**REVIEW OF SOMALIA**

**6 May 2021**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

We welcome the signing of a Joint Communique by the Federal Government of Somalia and the UN on the commitment to end sexual violence in conflict.

We are however concerned about high levels of civilian casualties and the lack of accountability for perpetrators, including for wide-spread sexual and gender-based violence. We call upon the Government to put the focus on these issues.

We have four recommendations:

1. Develop and enforce strong accountability mechanisms for national and regional forces, including adequate punishment for gender-based violence.
2. Implement awareness raising and educational campaigns against FGM and early and forced marriages aimed at all stakeholders, and develop and enact legislation aimed at eradicating these harmful practices.
3. Initiate a moratorium on the death penalty while working towards an appropriate legislation to abolish the death penalty.
4. In collaboration with civil society, OHCHR and UNSOM, take steps to develop a verified, comprehensive and publicly accessible record of all casualties of armed conflict.

Croatia wishes Somalia a successful review session.

Thank you.