**39th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF TAJIKISTAN**

**4 November 2021**

**Statement of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

We commend the Government for the measures taken to strengthen the independence, efficiency and accountability of the judiciary system. We positively note the adoption of a new strategy to reform the criminal justice system and program of judicial and legal reforms.

Furthermore, following the concerns of the UN experts and civil society about conditions of detention, we welcome the measures taken for the prevention of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in detention.

We have three recommendations:

1. **Review and amend national legislation relevant to freedom of religion or belief to ensure its full conformity with international human rights law.**
2. **Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**
3. **Consider amending the legislation in order to create an alternative to military service for conscientious objectors.**

Croatia commends Tajikistan for the progress achieved so far and wishes them a successful review session.

I thank you.