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

**REVIEW OF IRELAND**

**10 November 2021**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

We welcome the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and we recognize the efforts made in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in the country.

People in Ireland enjoy high levels of human rights protection and the country is a strong advocate of human rights in the international arena. However, Croatia believes there is room for improvement in order to ensure a comprehensive protection against racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination regarding Roma minority.

We have two recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
2. Develop specific programmes that address vulnerabilities of Roma minority as well as monitoring mechanism towards Roma inclusion.

Thank you, Madam President.