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

**REVIEW OF SYRIA**

**24 JANUARY 2022**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mister President,

Croatia thanks the delegation for the presentation.

It is difficult to imagine how the human rights situation in the country can be improved without ending the ongoing armed conflict and finding an overarching and durable political solution in a democratic manner, respecting the wishes of the people of Syria.

We recommend to Syria:

1. Take active steps to implement the obligations under Article 16 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 33 of Additional Protocol I, namely, to facilitate efforts to search for and identify any person killed or missing in hostilities, including civilians.
2. Commit to put an end to the indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure that limits children’s access to basic services such as hospitals and schools, including by outlawing such attacks and their use by the military forces.
3. Ensure the protection of civilians and prevent and prosecute cases of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including sexual violence
4. Allocate adequate resources and adopt measures to ensure that all victims of sexual and gender-based violence have access to medical treatment, including psychosocial support.

Thank you.