**40th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF SOUTH SUDAN**

**31 January 2022**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mister President,

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

We see many difficulties faced by the Government, as the country is plagued with massive social and economic instability, while conflict and violence cause dire humanitarian conditions. According to reports, over 70% of children are out of school, which in turn impedes development of the country. Child labor, recruitment of child soldiers and conflict related sexual violence against women and children remain serious issues in the country.

We have following recommendations:

1. Take concrete measure with a view of ending and preventing violations against children, including forced and early marriages.
2. Implement policies that will ensure that girls return and remain in the education system.
3. Strengthen national judiciary, including domestic criminal justice system.
4. Compile a public, verifiable record of all persons killed in armed conflict in the country, including civilians, with a view of using data to create an early warning system and to promote intercommunal reconciliation.

Croatia wishes the Delegation of South Sudan a successful review session.

Thank you.