**41st SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF FINLAND**

**9 November 2022**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mister President,

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

We welcome Finland’s efforts in combating violence against women, including the conduct of awareness raising campaigns and we encourage the Government to continue strengthening its measures in this field.

We acknowledge that Finnish legislation provides a possibility to complete non-military service instead of conscription and we encourage the Government to continue addressing remaining issues in that regard.

We would also like to commend the Government for its commitment to the implementation of the accepted recommendations of previous cycles.

We have three recommendations:

1. Increase the number of shelters and rape crisis centers in the country, especially in remote rural areas
2. Continue addressing the shortage of affordable and quality residential care for older persons
3. Take measures to ensure that alternatives to military service are not punitive or discriminatory in terms of their nature or duration.

Thank you, Mr. President.