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

**REVIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**16 November 2022**

**Statement of the Republic of Croatia**

Mister President,

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

We welcome the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Croatia notes the progress achieved in the area of the elimination of discrimination against women, especially through legislative reforms.

While we acknowledge Government’s efforts in addressing violence against women and girls, we are concerned about rampant gender-based violence across the country.

We note the information on the acts of torture committed by police officials and corresponding deaths in police custody, including excessive use of force against protesters.

We have three recommendations:

1. **Ensure that all deaths in custody and prison violence related cases are promptly investigated by an independent authority.**
2. **Provide the Legal Aid South Africa body with adequate resources.**
3. **Ensure that all cases of gender-based violence are thoroughly investigated and perpetrators prosecuted.**

Croatia wishes South Africa a successful review session. Thank you.