**42nd SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF GABON**

**24 January 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mister President,

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

We welcome the revisions of relevant legislation that strengthened legal equality for married women, including by recognizing gender-based violence as legitimate grounds for divorce.

We also welcome legal measures affirming women’s equal access to work, removing barriers to accessing the labor market and punishing sexual and psychological harassment.

However, we note the absence of a specific legal framework addressing the rights of women.

We have three recommendations:

1. Conduct nation-wide awareness raising campaigns and education programs aimed at addressing negative implications of child, early and forced marriage.
2. Provide affordable public elderly-care and childcare facilities, in order to enable the increase of women’s access to full-time employment in the formal sector.
3. Protect the rights of all individuals to freedom of opinion and expression and ensure that members of civil society and media workers can operate safely, without fear of retribution of any kind.

We wish Gabon a successful review session.

Thank you.