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

**REVIEW OF SRI LANKA**

**1 February 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia welcomes the Delegation of Sri Lanka and thanks them for the report.

The ongoing political and economic crises has severely affected the human rights of Sri Lankans. We encourage the Government to engage in meaningful and broad national dialogue on a democratic and orderly transition aimed at returning to reconciliation, stability and economic recovery.

In a constructive spirit, we recommend:

1. Undertake a broad -based consultative process to advance constitutional reforms that will guarantee the independence of key institutions, including the judiciary, and the Human Rights Commission;
2. Prepare and implement a comprehensive strategy on transitional justice and accountability, and ensure the independence and effectiveness of the Office of Missing Persons and Office for Reparations;
3. Take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms of physical and mental violence, including sexual abuse, and ban corporal punishment of children in all situations.

We wish Sri Lanka successful review.

I thank you.