**29th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF MALI**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Mali and thank them for the presentation of their report.

We welcome Mali’s close cooperation with the OHCHR through the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission as of 7 July 2016.

We note that substantial progress has been made in implementing the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali resulting from the Algiers Process, and encourage the Government of Mali to continue its efforts towards its full implementation.

However, we remain concerned with the continued practice of indiscriminate attacks and criminal and terrorist acts committed by extremist armed groups in the north and centre of the country that have affected civilian communities and increased the number of internally displaced persons.

Furthermore, we call upon Malian authorities to increase their commitment to a peaceful resolution of the armed conflict while respecting human rights and the rule of law.

Therefore, allow us to address Mali with two recommendations:

1. **To ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.**
2. **To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.**

Croatia would like to compliment the Government of Mali for the progress achieved and wish them a successful review session.

Thank you.