**30th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF COLOMBIA**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia **warmly welcomes** the delegation of Colombia and thanks them for the presentation of their UPR report. We applaud Colombia for the historic **Peace agreement** reached and wish it courage and perseverance in its implementation.

We would especially like to highlight two issues in this context; firstly, we welcome the launching of a programme designed to prevent the **recruitment and use of children** and adolescents by armed groups and ask the Governement take a further step and make sure to treat child combatants as the victims they are.

Croatia also commends the measures adopted relating to humanitarian assistance for victims of the armed conflict and those taken to improve care for **mine victims** and the strengthening of humanitarian demining. We are proud to say that Croatia and Colombia have a long-standing and broad cooperation when it comes to all aspects of demining and that we are participating in the post-conflict reconstruction of the country.

While we welcome the progress achieved so far, we would encourage further efforts of the Government on issues of **sexual violence in conflict** and **conscientious objection to military service** and therefore recommend Colombia to:

1. Ensure effective justice for all survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict, committed by legal and illegal armed actors.

2. Establish an independent and impartial application and decision-making procedure for implementing the right to conscientious objection to military service.

Mr. President,

we wish Colombia a successful UPR review session.