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

**REVIEW OF Cuba**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We are pleased to see Cuba cooperating with independent human rights monitors in accepting the visits of a UN Special Rapporteur and a UN Independent Expert and hope it will continue down this path.

We are worried however that human rights defenders continue to be persecuted and prevented from travelling. One such group was prevented from participating in the UPR pre-sessions and a defender was prevented from travelling to this session. We reiterate that civil society must be permitted to function freely and be allowed to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms.

Allow us to address Cuba with two recommendations:

1. **Remove legislative and practical obstacles for the functioning of civil society**
2. **Ratify and implement the ICCPR and ICESCR**

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

Thank you.