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

**REVIEW OF DJIBOUTI**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We welcome Djibouti’s efforts made with regard to **strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission** in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

We note that substantial resources have been dedicated to improve the national human rights protection system, and encourage the Government of Djibouti to continue its efforts towards its full implementation.

However, we remain c**oncerned with the recurring violations of civil and political rights** and recent measures taken against human rights defenders participating in the UPR process. Therefore, we encourage the government to **take** **appropriate measures** **to protect and ensure the space for civil society.**

Mr. President,

Allow us to address Djibouti with two recommendations:

1. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).**
2. **Create the legislative framework that guarantees the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly and ensures that these rights can be exercised freely.**

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

Thank you.