**31st SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**5 November 2018**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia would like to welcome the Delegation of Saudi Arabia and thank them for the presentation of their report.

We welcome the adoption of the “Saudi Vision 2030”, especially with regard to the improvement of the human rights record, as well as the promulgation of the Anti-Harassment Act in May this year.

However, we regret to see the persistence of the discriminatory male guardianship system and the continued existence of formal and informal barriers for women.

We are deeply concerned by the ongoing practice of imposing the death penalty and the growing number of executions of persons who were under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged commission of an offence.

Finally, we condemn the recent killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and we expect the Saudi authorities to conduct a thorough, credible and transparent investigation in cooperation with Turkish authorities and to ensure full accountability.

Therefore, allow us to address Saudi Arabia with two recommendations:

1. **Clarify the circumstances of the killing of Mr. Khashoggi and to ensure full accountability of all those responsible for committing such heinous crime.**
2. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2000);**

Croatia would like to encourage the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take further efforts in view of implementing reforms and wish them a successful review session.

Thank you.