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

**REVIEW OF CHINA**

**6 November 2018**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia **welcomes** the delegation of China and thanks them for the presentation of their UPR report.

We welcome the efforts China has invested in implementing the recommendations from the previous cycle and developing national action plans on human rights. Croatia also commends the successes achieved in lifting millions out of poverty.

There are, however, areas of concern. In line with the stated notion in the national report that China is accelerating the development of national legislation and implementation mechanisms for protecting the freedom of religious belief as well as the declared importance that the Government attaches to the rights of ethnic minorities we **recommend the Government to fully respect the rights of ethnic minorities, freedom of religion and expressions of cultural identity**. We also **recommend China cooperate with and allow unimpeded access to international monitors, such as the relevant Special Procedures to investigate alleged related rights violations**.

Regarding Hong Kong we **recommend that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) introduce internal legislation to implement the CRC**.

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

Thank you.