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

**REVIEW OF MALAYSIA**

**Statement of Croatia**

**8 November 2018**

Mr. President,

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

Croatia recognizes the recent efforts made by Malaysia to further social and economic development.

We welcome the main goals announced by the new Government of Malaysia, especially regarding its plans to abolish the death penalty and halt all pending capital punishments. Moreover, Croatia commends the governmental will to keep focus on human rights improvement. In this regard, we would welcome also efforts with the goal of decriminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.

While recognizing the progress achieved, certain human and civic rights remain to be improved.

Therefore, allow us to address Malaysia with two recommendations:

(1) Guarantee freedom of religion or belief to all, stemming racial and religious intolerance, including against the Christian community.

(2) Take effective measures to ensure that civil law and sharia law are in full compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the local, state and federal levels.

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

Thank you.