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

**REVIEW OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

**9 November 2018**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia extends its warm welcome to the delegation of Central African Republic and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

We welcome its positive achievements concerning ratification of several UN Human Rights Conventions as well as efforts made by President Touadéra and his Government in the consolidation of democratic institutions and security sector reform.

However, we regret to see that the rule of law is not yet firmly established and country continues to suffer from insecurity and weak institutions.

 We remained concerned by the humanitarian situation, in particular as regards displaced and enclaved persons, women and children, who continue to be the main victims of the crisis and hardly suffer from insecurity and violence.

Moreover, we are troubled by the reports showing widespread abuses and violations of fundamental rights, corruption, impunity and violence commited by armed groups against the civilian population.

Finally, Croatia calls for additional support from the international community in order to strengthen nedeed humanitarian assistance.

Allow us to address Central African Republic with two recommendations:

1. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedures.**
2. **Take steps to eradicate female genital mutilation and to raise awareness against this harmful practice among the different ethnic groups.**

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

Thank you.