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

**REVIEW OF MALTA**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We commend Malta’s ratifications of international human rights treaties since the second review cycle and for fulfilling their reporting obligations to the UN treaty bodies in a timely fashion.

We welcome the adoption of the National Strategic Policy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion for 2014–2024, in which the Government affirmed its commitment to pursue social and economic policies and address the erosion of living standards by taking measures against poverty and social exclusion.

We concur with the observations made by the Human Rights Committee, that, while measures to prevent violence against women, including domestic violence, have been put in place, further efforts should be made in order to increase the number of prosecutions of perpetrators of violence against women and children.

Therefore, allow us to address Malta with two recommendations:

1. **Intensify its efforts to eliminate violence against women and children, duly investigate cases of violence against them, provide access to justice for all women, increase the number of shelters with adequate resources, and improve the training for the staff of legal institutions and the police force.**
2. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** **on the Communications Procedure.**

Croatia would like to wish the Delegation of Malta a successful review session.

Thank you.