**32nd SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF AFGHANISTAN**

**21 January 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We commend the Government of Afghanistan for steps taken with regard to the establishment of the Council for the Rule of Law aiming to coordinate the activities in different sectors at the state level. Likewise, we commend the enhancement of the human rights legislative framework in the area of protecting of the rights of children and women, particularly, the adoption of the Children Guardianship Law and the Law on Prohibition of Harassment Against Women and Children.

We also welcome the recent ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

However, we remain concerned with the still high level of violation of human rights arising from insecurity, especially of women and the most vulnerable groups, such as children and people with disabilities, who continue to face persistent discrimination in the achievement of their fundamental human rights.

Therefore, allow us to address Afghanistan with two recommendations:

1. **To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**
2. **To continue efforts in child and women’s rights protection and improving their conditions, especially in the education and healthcare sectors**

Croatia would like to encourage Afghanistan to take further efforts in view of implementing reforms as well as UPR recommendations and wish them a successful review session.

Thank you.