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

**REVIEW OF YEMEN**

**23 January 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of Yemen and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

We welcome the positive developments concerning Yemen’s efforts in implementing the Stockholm Agreement, which represents the biggest step forward in UN mediation efforts in Yemen. The Agreement gives hope and perspectives for a political settlement and consequently for improving the dramatic situation on the ground.

We remain gravely concerned by the humanitarian crisis that continues to deteriorate, in particular the cholera outbreak and 14 million people at risk of starvation. We are troubled by reports showing widespread abuses and violations of fundamental rights, practices of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture.

Furthermore, we regret to see that children’s rights are not protected and that grave violations are committed against them. Children are still recruited for military purposes and used in active combat.

Allow us to address Yemen with two recommendations:

1. **Ratify the Rome Statute and implement the statute in national legislation, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court.**
2. **Eradicate the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups and end all violations committed against them in breach of international law and standards.**

Croatia wishes the Government of Yemen a successful review session.

Thank you.