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

**REVIEW OF FYROM**

**24 January 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the positive achievements concerning the Government’s efforts in adopting antidiscrimination legislation, in particular the adoption of the new National Gender Equality Action Plan and the forthcoming adoption of the Law on the Prevention of and Protection against Discrimination.

Furthermore, we commend the Government for the ratification of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) and the adoption of the NAP for its implementation, envisaging the adoption of a new special Law against Gender-Based Violence.

Croatia also welcomes the establishment of the new National Coordination Body on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Lastly, we encourage the Government to further strengthen the efficiency of the judicial system in order to ensure its independence and to continue taking all necessary measures to combat corruption and organised crimes.

Therefore, allow us to give two recommendations:

1. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.**
2. **Take further efforts to improve social inclusion of national minorities, in particular access to education and healthcare services for women, children and people with disabilities.**

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

Thank you.