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

**REVIEW OF ERITREA**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We note with satisfaction the dedication of the Government to the UPR process evidenced by the level of implementation of previously accepted recommendations. Croatia welcomes the efforts to restore peace and stability to the region which are emboldened by the developments in the past few months and are pleased to see improvement in Eritrea’s relationships with her neighbours.

We hope the new atmosphere of peace and stability will have an effect on the practice of indefinite military service. Croatia therefore, as previously, recommends Eritrea to

1. Recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service in law and practice, end the practice of indefinite national service and allow substitute service for conscientious objectors

Likewise, as Eritrea begins its membership in the Human rights Council allow us to remind of the human rights standards expected of countries members of the Council and the efforts that need to be invested domestically to this purpose as well as the responsibility of members to cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms. We therefore, recommend Eritrea to

1. Cooperate fully with the OHCHR and extend a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea

Finally, we would like to commend the efforts of the Government in the areas of education and towards promoting gender equality and abolishing discriminatory practices against women and children, notably Female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriages.

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

Thank you.