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

**REVIEW OF CAMBODIA**

**30 January 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

Croatia would like to commend Cambodia for the steps taken to implement recommendations on the protection of children by developing laws and policies on violence against children and child labour. We would also like to acknowledge progress achieved in the area of education.

However, we must echo the concern expressed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia about the situation of children from indigenous and ethnic minority groups who still suffer disadvantages, including in relation to the availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability of education which ties into the general discriminatory treatment of ethnic minorities in the country.

Croatia remains concerned with the state of fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life in Cambodia. The onslaught on civil society, independent media, and political opposition has profound consequences on the state of human rights in the country.

Mr President,

Allow us to address Cambodia with two recommendations:

1. **Issue standing invitations to the UN special procedures, and engage constructively with the Special rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia, the OHCHR, and all UN special procedures**
2. **End harassment and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders, members of the political opposition, activists and journalists.**

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

Thank you.