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

**REVIEW OF SLOVAKIA**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia would like to extend a warm welcome to the Delegation of Slovakia and thank them for the presentation of their report.

We commend the Government’s adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence in 2015, and the establishment of the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children.

Furthermore, we commend the Government’s adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in 2015, as well as the adoption of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and the Action Plan for Gender Equality 2014-2019.

While the representation of women in the judiciary remains high, we share the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which noted the underrepresentation of women in Parliament and in the Government, as well as the underrepresentation of women in high-ranking positions in the diplomatic service.

Therefore, allow us to address Slovakia with two recommendations:

1. **To promote women’s access to the labour market, eliminate horizontal and vertical imbalance between women and men in the labour market and close the gender pay gap,**
2. **To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**

Croatia would like to wish the Delegation of Slovakia a successful review session.

Thank you.