**33rd SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF ALBANIA**

**6 May 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We strongly commend the Government of Albania for the efforts to enhance the independence, efficiency and accountability of the judiciary system in the country. We positively note the Government’s determination to continue the fight against corruption and organized crime.

Croatia welcomes the adoption of the Law on the Rights and Protection of the Child in 2018 as an important step in improving the child protection legal framework. We encourage Albania to continue in that direction for the well-being of children and the entire society.

Nonetheless, we would like to invite the Government of Albania to make further improvements in the area of the protection of children as well as victims of human trafficking and all forms of abuse.

Therefore, allow us to address Albania with two recommendations:

1. **Reinforce measures to protect victims of human trafficking and all forms of abuse with due regard to the situation of child and women victims.**
2. **Develop tailored policy responses on national level, especially in rural areas, aimed at protecting children from the phenomenon of blood feud.**

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

Thank you.