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

**REVIEW OF COSTA RICA (13 May 2019)**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

Croatia welcomes positive achievements such as the enactment of the National Policy for De Facto Equality between Women and Men 2018 - 2030. We also recognize country's commitment for implementing SDGs - specifically Goal 5 - aiming to achieve gender equality.

While we are glad to see that Costa Rica has taken a step forward in recognizing the human rights of older persons by adopting the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, we regret to see the increase in the number of cases of neglect of older persons in different settings. Consequently, we hope that the established network for the comprehensive care of older persons will be adequately implemented leading to their effective protection.

Furthermore, we note that Costa Rica has legal instruments in place designed to guarantee immediate access to justice for women, and we therefore encourage them to enhance their efforts on addressing violence against women, including preventing the causes of femicide, discrimination and harassment of women.

Croatia would like to make **the following recommendations:**

1. **Take all necessary steps to improve access to health, social welfare, safe drinking water and sanitation for members of vulnerable groups;**
2. **Further strengthen implementation on its national police relating to child-related programmes and activities.**

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

Thank you.