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

**REVIEW OF THE EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

**13 May 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

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

We commend the Equatorial Guinea for committing to strengthen human rights and protection system, in particular, the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the adherence of Equatorial Guinea to a number of human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. We also welcome efforts undertaken concerning the accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

However, we regret to see that, even though prenatal monitoring service has been strengthened, and there has been a significant reduction in the maternal and infant mortality rate, there is still high number of new-born babies dying before reaching the age of 1.

Additionally, we would also like to express our concern on the still very high levels of early marriages and adolescent pregnancies, which is affecting the number of children not attending school.

Mr. President, allow us to address the Equatorial Guinea with two recommendations:

1. **To invest further efforts in preventing and reducing all forms of violence against women, as well as in providing adequate assistance to victims.**
2. **To sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.**

Croatia would once again like to compliment the Equatorial Guinea for the progress achieved and wish them a successful review session.

I thank you.