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

**REVIEW OF NICARAGUA**

**15 May 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia welcomes the Delegation of Nicaragua and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

We welcome the Government’s efforts towards reducing poverty and social inequality, as well as improving living standards.

Unfortunately, the current socio-political crisis means that Nicaragua is now the second country in Latin America with the highest number of nationals living abroad. We are concerned that since the protests began in April 2018, significant deterioration of the human rights situation has occurred, which is why we supported the HRC resolution on Nicaragua putting in place monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation.

While we welcome the release of a number of political prisoners, this is still not enough. The situation for detainees has been deteriorating as they are subject to cruel and inhuman treatment.

We therefore, address Nicaragua with two recommendations:

1. **Allow international and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms unrestricted access to the country to monitor and document the human rights situation.**

1. **Repeal or amend legislation that may place obstacles to legitimate activities to promote and defend human rights, thereby respecting the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.**

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

Thank you.