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

**REVIEW OF QATAR**

**15 May 2019**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Qatar and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

Croatia is glad to see that in the framework of Qatar National Vision 2030, the State is keen on engaging in international cooperation, contributing to international peace and security and fulfilling its international obligations.

While we note that Qatar has continued its policy of combating all forms of domestic violence against women and children, particularly by acceding to two core human rights treaties, we are worried by the reservations that have been made to each of the covenants.

Therefore, Croatia encourages Qatar to withdraw its reservations and ensure equal rights of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights.

Although, Croatia is aware of the recent legislation aimed at abolishing ***Kafalah* system**, we call upon Qatar to fully abolish this degraded system and to protect migrant workers from all forms of exploitation and abuse.

We welcome the current development of a national human rights action plan and call on authorities to put more effort into improving and ensuring protection and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Finally, allow us to address Qatar with two recommendations:

1. **Adopt the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.**
2. **Adopt the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.**

Croatia would like to compliment the Government of Qatar for the progress achieved and wishes them a successful review session.

Thank you.