

**PERMANENET MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**GENEVA**

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**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**34th Session of the UPR Working Group**

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**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

 **Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Geneva, November 13, 2019**

Mr. President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and wishes to thank them for the presentation of their report.

We commend the positive developments regarding the adoption and implementation of numerous strategies aimed at enhancing the protection of the rights of women and vulnerable groups, such as children, persons with disabilities and national minorities. However, much remains to be done in terms of a comprehensive strategy and its implementation to ensure the enjoyment of equal human rights to all segments of society.

Therefore, we have four recommendations:

1. **Amend the Election Law as required by the ruling of the Constitutional Court and the constitutional principle of non-discrimination in order to guarantee full equality of all the constituent peoples and their legitimate representation at all levels, especially of Croats as the least numerous constituent people.**
2. **Reform the public RTV broadcasters with the goal of ensuring that they serve to all segments of the society through the equal use of all official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina.**
3. **Provide access to education and protect the right to education in the mother tongues of the three constituent peoples, in a tolerant and inclusive education system that will prevent assimilation.**
4. **Strengthen the professionalism and independence of the judiciary system and improve the level of expertise of the prosecution, as well as of the courts, to ensure the enforcement of European and international standards in the prosecution of war crimes.**

Croatia commends Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress achieved so far and wishes them a successful review session.

I Thank you.