**34th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF EL SALVADOR**

**Statement of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of El Salvador and thanks them for the presentation of their UPR report.

Croatia welcomes the ratifications of international instruments by El Salvador since the last UPR review and in line with UPR recommendations received.

It is commendable that the Government recognized and is tackling the alarming rates of femicide by adopting a comprehensive strategy for the prevention of femicide and violence against women as well as a femicide criminal prosecution policy. We welcome also the establishment of the National Directorate for women, children, adolescents, LGBTI and vulnerable groups. It is especially important also that the Family Code has been amended to ban child marriage in all circumstances.

Croatia would like to encourage El Salvador to continue on this positive path and take more steps towards ensuring the rights of women and girls as gender gaps are still wide in the country and sexual and physical abuse of women remains widespread.

Mr President,

Allow us to address El Salvador with two recommendations:

1. Take measures to speed up the eradication of inequalities in access to education between girls and boys, with increased efforts in rural areas
2. Ensure the rights of the victims of the armed conflict to truth, justice and reparation;

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

Thank you.