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

**GENEVA**

*Check against delivery*

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

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

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**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

**Review of Slovenia**

**Geneva, November 12, 2019**

Mme Vice-President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of Slovenia and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

We welcome the adoption of the Civil Union Act, the enhancement of status and rights of the Roma community members, as well as broadening of the education related rights of some other ethnic communities.

Croatia and Slovenia are two neighbouring countries that have shared similar history throughout the centuries and have cooperated closely in numerous fields.

The Slovenian community in Croatia has been granted a national minority status and is guaranteed minority rights in compliance with the highest international standards including a representative in the Croatian parliament.

At the same time Croatian community, though the largest ethnic group in Slovenia that has been residing there for centuries, is not recognized as an autochthonous national minority.

We therefore recommend to Slovenia:

1. Undertake all necessary steps to recognize the Croatian community as an autochthonous national minority and grant it the rights deriving from this status that has already been assigned to Italian and Hungarian communities.
2. Sign and ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

We wish Slovenia a very successful UPR.

Thank you, Mme Vice-President.