**35th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF ARMENIA**

**23 January 2020**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

Croatia would like to commend the Government for strengthening Human Rights Defender mandate, following the constitutional amendments of 2015 as well as for the “Open Government Partnership” initiative that enables citizens to participate in discussions on legal acts.

We are interested to hear more about the National SDG Innovation Lab of Armenia and the ways in which it has contributed to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Could you also elaborate on actions taken by your Government regarding the issue of the excessive use of force by the police officers against peaceful participants at various protests?

Madam President,

We are interested in Government’s measures regarding deinstitutionalization of children that are in the State care. Does the Government envisage an increase of resources for alternative care services in the near future?

We encourage Armenia to create sustainable programmes that support families and parenting and ensure that social services are available for children and families in vulnerable situations.

We have two recommendations:

1. **Step up the efforts for a rapid ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).**
2. **Develop an oversight mechanism to monitor the situation of children placed in residential institutions, foster families or under guardianship or trusteeship.**

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

Thank you.