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

**REVIEW OF KUWAIT**

**Statement of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

Croatia welcomes the Government’s commitment to cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms. However it is regrettable that intimidation and reprisals for accessing international and regional mechanisms still persist.

Likewise, while welcoming that the Kuwaiti national development plan 2015–2020 includes goals to eradicate discrimination against women, we remain concerned by the existence of legal provisions on the presumption of women's dependence on men, particularly in the Personal Status Act, that remain unchanged and have a detrimental impact on women's equal protection under the law and equal access to public services.

Therefore we would like to repeat our previous **recommendations**:

Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Prohibit domestic violence and sexual harassment against women and children and ensure that women have equality before the law

We also **recommend** Kuwait accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

In the meantime, we **recommend** the Government strengthen efforts to ensure that the best interests of children are a primary consideration in all judicial proceedings where parents are involved, and especially when sentencing parents to death.

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

Thank you.