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

**REVIEW OF KYRGYZSTAN**

**20 January 2020**

**Statement of Croatia**

Madam President,

Croatia warmly welcomes the Delegation of Kyrgyzstan and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

We commend the Government’s adoption in 2019 of the Action Plan for 2019–2022 on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Furthermore, we welcome the steps taken by the Government to prevent torture and ill-treatment, as well as plans to pursue reforms in the law enforcement sector.

We encourage the authorities to also adopt further measures in order to prevent religiously-motivated violence and remove restrictive religious limitations, including the denial of burial rights of Christian and other religious minorities.

Madam President, allow us to address Kyrgyzstan with three recommendations:

1. **Ensure the freedom of religion or belief in Kyrgyzstan, both in law and in practice, and root out all cases of religious persecution and the exploitation of laws against members of religious minorities;**
2. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and enact implementing legislation;**
3. **Take necessary steps in order to ameliorate right to freedom of expression and to the right of access to information.**

Croatia wishes the Delegation of Kyrgyzstan a successful review session.

I thank you.