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

**REVIEW OF SWEDEN**

**27 January 2020**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

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

Croatia commends the role of Sweden in the promotion and protection of human rights in the multilateral arena. The incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Swedish law, the ratification of a couple of international conventions and the education of students about democracy and human rights are among many positive examples of the Government’s human rights commitments.

We would be interested to learn more about Government’s response to several treaty bodies regarding their recommendation that Sweden establish an independent national human rights institution invested with a broad human rights mandate, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Madam President,

What steps has the Government taken to address trafficking in human beings, especially the sexual exploitation of children both online and offline?

We have two recommendations:

1. **Criminalize all the offences referred to in articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and ensure that sexual exploitation of children is punishable with appropriate penalties that take into account the grave nature of these crimes.**
2. **Ensure that authentic mother-tongue education is consistently provided in schools for ethnic minorities and consider new educational initiatives to protect their cultural and linguistic identity.**

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

Thank you.