**UPR 36**

Croatia

*10 November 2020*

**Statement by the Czech republic**

The Czech republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Croatia.

Since the first cycle, we have been paying close attention to justice for war crimes *which is essential for the rule of law*. We appreciate the progress at the national level in witness protection and international cooperation. We **recommend** to further expedite the prosecution of cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity and ensure that all such cases are prosecuted in a non-discriminatory manner, regardless of the perpetrator’s ethnicity.

Another key aspect of the rule of law is the administration of justice and public’s trust in the judiciary. In this context, we **recommend** to effectively investigate all acts of intimidation and attacks on journalists and the media and bring those responsible to justice.

In order to further support women, people with disabilities and persons belonging to ethnic, sexual and other minorities in their full participation in public and political life, we **recommend** to take additional practical steps necessary to eradicate stereotypes and prejudice including by providing appropriate training to public officials with a view to putting an end to the social stigmatization of these persons.

We appreciate the legal and financial framework concerning the Ombudsperson and the specialized offices that contribute to Croatia’s fullfilment of its international human rights obligations. In order to further support its role, we **recommend** to step up efforts in responding diligently and promptly to the Ombudsperson’s recommendations and requests.

We wish our Croatian colleagues and partners a successful review.