**Universal Periodic Review, 36th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Croatia, 10 November 2020**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mme. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Croatia and thanks it for its presentation today.

We welcome Croatia’s ratification of the Istanbul Convention and look forward to seeing its full implementation.

We are concerned by reports of journalists being deterred from critical reporting by frequent defamation lawsuits. Critical journalism is fundamental for democratic debate.

*Denmark recommends the Government to change civil defamation laws where needed to deter frivolous lawsuits against journalists.*

We find that civic education in Croatia’s schools should be developed.

*Denmark recommends the Government to further emphasize civil and political rights and fundamental democratic principles in the civic education curriculum.*

Denmark wishes Croatia a successful review.

I thank you.