**36th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF BULGARIA**

**6 November 2020**

**Statement of the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

Croatia welcomes the Delegation of Bulgaria.

We commend the Government’s adoption in 2018 of the Anti-Corruption Act, including all steps that guarantee the protection against prosecution for whistle-blowers and activists of the civil society.

We welcome the training programs conducted for police officers working in a multi-ethnic environment with focus on prevention of tensions in areas with compact minority population.

Although Bulgaria achieved progress in child-care system reform over the preceding decade, enabling childcare outside of institutions that was widely recognized as a success, some challenges persist, notably those related to weak mechanisms for the prevention of family separations.

We have two recommendations for Bulgaria:

1. **Introduce systematic capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officers on the application of criminal law provisions on gender-based violence against women;**
2. **Adopt targeted measures to combat intersecting forms of discrimination against Roma women and girls, including with regard to access to education, employment, health care, housing and other social services.**

Croatia wishes the Delegation of Bulgaria a successful review session.

I thank you.