**36th SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**REVIEW OF BELARUS**

**2 November 2020**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Belarus.

We believe the adoption of the **National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2016-2019**, focused on the recommendations adopted during the second UPR cycle is a good practice and we would encourage its continuation, in cooperation with civil society.

The adoption of important strategic documents and development of legislation with the aim of improving **the rights of persons with disabilities** and their social inclusion is a positive development.

We call upon the Belarusian government to take firmer steps in the implementation of the **CEDAW Convention**, especially in view of preventing and **combating domestic and gender based violence**. We regret the refusal to accept recommendations regarding the moratorium and abolition of the death penalty.

With the aim of strengthening overall human rights, we have following recommendations for Belarus:

1. **We once again recommend Belarus to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;**
2. **Develop legal framework aimed at combating domestic and gender-based violence.**

Thank you, Madam President.