

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE**

**REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

**to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Check against delivery**

**36th Session of the UPR**

**Statement**

**of**

**Mr. SejhanZejnel**

**Third Secretary**

**Review of Croatia**

*Geneva, November 10, 2020*

Madame President,

Allow me to welcome the delegation of Croatia and thank them for the comprehensive presentation of the human rights situation in their country.

We highly appreciate the progress Croatia has achieved since the second UPR cycle, especially in the fight against violence and poverty in the country.

Further we commend the **ratification** of several important international HR instruments, in particular, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs.

Concerning our previous recommendation pertaining to **domestic violence**, we welcome the continuation of national policy aimed at ensuring a higher level of protection and improving the quality of victim’s life. In that respect, we welcome the adoption of the new Act on Protection against Domestic Violence and The National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence 2017-2022. Can you please elaborate in more details what the key achievements of the new strategy are expected to be?

Concerning our recommendation from the 2nd cycle on **gender equality**, we welcome the steps taken for increasing the awareness of gender equality, especially about the Gender Equality Act and other anti-discrimination laws. We equally welcome the increase of representation of women in the representative and executive branches, both at local and national level, and we encourage continuation of efforts for further improvements in thisregard.

We further recommend Croatia to implement the provisions of the CEDAW, and to integrate a gender perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and close the persistent gender wage gap in the country.

Thank you,