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**UPR36 – Croatia**

Statement by Slovakia

10 November 2020

Madam President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Croatia to this UPR session and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We recognize efforts made by Croatia to address human rights related issues and praise it for numerous positive steps taken since its last UPR.

Slovakia commends Croatia for the ratification of the OPIC in 2017. At the same time, we have noticed concerns raised about the independence of the Children’s Ombudsperson. Therefore, we *recommend* that Croatia take all necessary measures, including amending respective legislation, to guarantee its full independence.

We have also noticed reports about journalists being exposed to threats and intimidation, and lack of success in finding perpetrators. Slovakia therefore *recommends* that Croatia take all measures to preserve a free, safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers, ensure that they can do their work without facing intimidation or harassment, and investigate and prosecute incidents of attacks on journalists and the media.

In order to improve its legislative framework, Slovakia *recommends* that Croatia ratify the CED.

We also *recommend* that Croatia review eligibility criteria for social benefits, in particular for women, and develop policies, which would ensure better social protection.

We wish Croatia successful implementation of recommendations.

I thank you Madam President.