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Universal periodic review

## Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review<sup>\*</sup>, <sup>\*\*</sup>

### Croatia

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\* Agreement was reached to publish the present document after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

\*\* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its fiftieth session from 3 to 14 November 2025. The review of Croatia was held at the 12th meeting, on 10 November 2025. The delegation of Croatia was headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, Ivan Crnčec. At its 15th meeting, held on 14 November 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Croatia.
2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Croatia: Colombia, Iceland and Indonesia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Croatia:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>3</sup>
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Costa Rica, on behalf of the members of the core group of sponsors of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica, Maldives and Slovenia), Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Croatia through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Croatia stated that its report for the universal periodic review had been prepared through an interministerial process, with civil society and academia. In the previous cycle, Croatia had received 224 recommendations, had accepted 194 of them and had addressed all of them. Since then, Croatia had reported to several United Nations treaty bodies and had ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
6. The country's human rights architecture had been strengthened through the Ombudsperson's mandate and the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period to 2027, and supported by aligned strategies, including gender equality.
7. The social inclusion policies of Croatia had targeted vulnerable groups, by means of national plans on education, health, housing and employment. The National Development Strategy for the period to 2030 had guided sustainable growth. Healthcare improvements included investments in mental health, in countering addiction and in palliative care, and legal access to termination of pregnancy.
8. The rule-of-law measures taken covered anti-corruption, conflicts of interest, whistle-blower protection and lobbying. Climate and environmental policies had been aligned with the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/50/HRV/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/50/HRV/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/50/HRV/3](#).

9. Anti-discrimination efforts had addressed hate crimes, gender equality, minority rights, Roma inclusion and LGBTQI+ protection.
10. Penitentiary reforms had emphasized training, non-discrimination and healthcare. The anti-trafficking measures taken were victim-centred, with inter-institutional cooperation.
11. Media freedom and the safety of journalists were ensured by law, alongside counter-disinformation initiatives.
12. Judicial reforms had improved efficiency and accessibility, supported by free legal aid, while investments had continued in the penitentiary infrastructure and in alternatives to detention.
13. Policies relating to violence against women included the criminalization of femicide and the use of definitions contained in the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).
14. Child rights measures were ensuring educational access and targeted support. Legislation for persons with disabilities was promoting independence and inclusion.
15. The country's migration management respected international obligations, including non-refoulement, humanitarian assistance and independent monitoring.
16. Croatia remained committed to accountability and reconciliation in relation to the Homeland War, with the search for missing persons being a national priority.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

17. During the interactive dialogue, 74 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
18. Ireland noted that further steps were required to address the legacies of past conflict, to advance the transitional justice agenda and to achieve reconciliation within the country and across the region.
19. Italy appreciated the efforts made by Croatia since the previous review in relation to combating all forms of discrimination and in combating femicide.
20. Japan appreciated the positive steps taken by Croatia to further strengthen systems to protect the rights of children, women and girls, persons with disabilities, and minorities.
21. Jordan appreciated the steps taken to combat corruption and enhance transparency, and the legislation and policies aimed at combating discrimination and hate crimes to protect vulnerable groups.
22. Lebanon commended Croatia for developing comprehensive legislation to combat violence against women and girls and for the National Education System Development Plan for the period to 2027.
23. Luxembourg thanked the delegation of Croatia for the presentation of its national report.
24. Malaysia commended Croatia for its ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights.
25. Maldives commended Croatia for its efforts to strengthen governance and welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and its National Plan for Gender Equality.
26. Malta welcomed the continued implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for 2025 and the Action Plan for Combating Discrimination for 2025, which covered groups of people commonly discriminated against, including LGBTQI+ persons.
27. Mexico noted the legislative progress made by Croatia in combating domestic violence and gender-based violence.

28. Mongolia commended Croatia for efforts made in relation to judicial reform, and access to education, and in protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
29. Montenegro welcomed the efforts made by Croatia in advancing human rights and freedoms, and commended it for its systematic approach in addressing challenges, such as violence against women and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. It also commended Croatia for establishing femicide as a separate criminal offence.
30. Morocco commended Croatia for the legislative and political reforms that it had implemented to give effect to the recommendations received during the previous review.
31. Nepal appreciated the initiatives taken in the field of good governance, climate action and healthcare services, as well as the National Plan for Gender Equality for the period to 2027 which was aimed at enhancing gender equality and women's participation.
32. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Croatia for further closing the digitalization gap by increasing the use of electronic communications in the legal system. It noted the current state of national, linguistic, ethnic and sexual minorities, and of media freedom in the country.
33. North Macedonia welcomed the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking for the period to 2030 and noted the adoption of strategic documents to protect minorities, promote tolerance and community cooperation, and combat racism, xenophobia, discrimination, hate crime and hate speech.
34. Norway acknowledged the progress made by Croatia in human rights but called for stronger measures to safeguard freedom of the press and judicial independence and to combat corruption and protect minority rights.
35. Oman commended the efforts made by Croatia to strengthen mental health services by adopting the Strategic Framework for Mental Health and expanding the care network to include field teams and specialized clinics that contributed to improving prevention, treatment and community care.
36. Pakistan noted with appreciation the efforts of Croatia to strengthen its national human rights institution, as well as the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period to 2027, and efforts to prevent and punish hate crimes and incitement to hatred.
37. The Philippines lauded the adoption of national action plans to advance human rights across a broad range of areas, notably in promoting gender equality, ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, safeguarding the rights of the child and combating trafficking in persons.
38. Poland commended the adoption of the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period to 2027, as well as the National Plan for Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.
39. Portugal commended the adoption of the Strategic Framework for Mental Health for the period to 2030, an important step towards improving access to mental health services.
40. The Republic of Korea commended the legislative and policy measures taken by Croatia to advance gender equality and address domestic violence, including the amendments to the Criminal Code and the Labour Act, as well as the adoption of the National Plan for Gender Equality for the period to 2027.
41. The Republic of Moldova assessed positively the accreditation of the Ombudsperson's Office with "A" status and welcomed efforts to achieve gender equality. It also commended achievements in promoting the safety of journalists, preventing the institutionalization of persons with disabilities and combating trafficking in persons.
42. Romania welcomed the commitment by Croatia towards better combating disinformation and hate speech, and addressing hate crimes, the steps taken towards strengthening the justice system, and the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the Ombudsperson.

43. The Russian Federation expressed concerns about the selective use of legal instruments, especially on issues of combating intolerance and discrimination based on ethnicity and religion. It also noted limited efforts to protect minorities against discriminatory practices and added that measures taken to address socioeconomic problems were insufficient.
44. Senegal noted the ratification of most international human rights instruments and the measures taken to combat discrimination and strengthen the judicial system.
45. Serbia commended Croatia for implementing the Special Operational Programmes for National Minorities, which included support for the Serbian minority, the development of minority institutions, and investments in key sectors such as the economy, agriculture and rural development.
46. Sierra Leone applauded Croatia for granting one year of free compulsory pre-primary education and 12 years of free primary and secondary education by law. It also welcomed the 2023 amendments to the Labour Act, which strengthened the principle of equal pay for women and men.
47. While appreciating the significant efforts made by Croatia to improve its legislation in line with the recommendations from the previous review cycle regarding violence against women, Slovakia noted that there were certain areas where significant limitations in implementing the legislation persisted, leading to secondary victimization, and victim-blaming, and creating an environment that discouraged women from seeking help.
48. Slovenia commended Croatia for amending the Criminal Code introducing femicide as a specific criminal offence.
49. South Africa commended Croatia for the work undertaken to establish a more inclusive education system with a focus on improving quality, relevance and accessibility across all levels. It welcomed the National Education System Development Plan for the period to 2027 which, among other things, set out measures to advance the right to education for persons with disabilities and to systematize and standardize the measures taken for full realization thereof.
50. Spain congratulated Croatia on criminalizing femicide, as approved by Parliament, and on adopting the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period to 2027.
51. Sri Lanka acknowledged the efforts of Croatia to implement the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period to 2027, the National Plan for Gender Equality and the Strategic Framework for Mental Health.
52. Sweden welcomed the establishment of an adequate legislative framework, especially in the areas of combating corruption and discrimination, as well as the progress made to improve the follow-up to the Ombudsperson's recommendations.
53. Switzerland made recommendations.
54. Togo congratulated Croatia on the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and on the accreditation of the Ombudsperson's Office. It also noted the measures taken to combat trafficking in persons, hate speech and domestic violence.
55. Tunisia commended Croatia for the progress made in terms of following up on and implementing the recommendations from the previous review cycles at the legislative and institutional levels.
56. Croatia then took the floor to explain that regarding the universal periodic review monitoring mechanism, and implementation of the Ombudsperson's recommendations, the need for a coordinating body to be established had been recognized in relevant national plans and operational programmes. The plan was to develop a model for the new national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up by 2027.
57. The prevention and suppression of hate crimes, hate speech and all forms of discrimination remained a key priority for Croatia. Croatia maintained a zero-tolerance

approach and firmly condemned such acts, particularly those targeting minority communities. The competent authorities responded swiftly, supported by a solid legal framework. The relevant legislation was currently being amended to introduce stricter provisions, including sanctions for the use of hate symbols.

58. The delegation recognized challenges in monitoring hate speech and related crimes, and planned to develop an improved monitoring tool by 2027. By 2028, an action plan for combating hate speech and incitement to hatred would be adopted, which would be accompanied by efforts to standardize police and judicial practices and to raise public awareness.

59. The Criminal Code defined gender-based violence against women and treated it as an aggravating circumstance, and now incorporated aggravated murder of a female person (femicide) for gender-motivated killings, which was not time-barred. Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code had expanded victims' rights, requiring authorities to act promptly, to the benefit of victims. Croatia had strengthened protection through the National Plan for Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the National Plan for Combating Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment, fully integrating international recommendations and promoting victim rights through professional training.

60. Regarding media freedom and journalists, the Criminal Code included two offences – defamation and insult – prosecuted only through private lawsuits and punishable by fines. Unlawfulness was excluded when such acts occurred in the exercise of journalistic work in the public interest. A new offence, unauthorized disclosure of data in criminal investigations, protected investigative confidentiality.

61. Regarding strategic lawsuits against public participation, the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation was preparing dedicated legislation on such lawsuits. The law would transpose the European Union directive and strengthen protection for all stakeholders engaged in public life. The Ministry of Culture and Media had already adopted two protocols: one on police and media conduct at public events and another on police action when journalists were victims of crimes, improving safety and cooperation.

62. With regard to children's rights, Croatia was running a project entitled "Implementing the *barnahus* model in Croatia", setting up the first national children's house (*barnahus*) for child victims of crime, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation. The project was aimed at preventing retraumatization during investigations and court proceedings by means of a coordinated response and the provision of medical and legal support.

63. Education reforms were aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for all children, especially in rural areas. The National Education System Development Plan for the period to 2027 was expanding preschool and primary school capacities, upgrading facilities, and introducing a full-day school model. Students with disabilities received support through assistive technologies, personal assistants, peer support, and adapted transport and accommodation.

64. Croatia had adopted the national action plan of the European Child Guarantee (the European Union guarantee for children at risk of poverty and social exclusion), ensuring access to nutrition, healthcare, education, transportation and housing. The action plan promoted foster care and community-based services to prevent institutionalization.

65. The anti-corruption efforts of Croatia were shifting from repression to prevention. Priority was placed on reinforcing ethical standards for government officials through a newly established ethics commission. The first Lobbying Act had been adopted in 2024, while amendments to the Whistle-blowers Act in 2025 had introduced stronger procedural and substantive elements.

66. Croatia had been engaged in a long-term process of improving the efficiency of its judiciary. Two decades earlier, there had been 1.6 million unresolved cases, but in the past year that number had fallen to just over 400,000.

67. Improvements, through the new Justice System Development Action Plan 2025–2027, were being planned, with a strong focus on digitalization. Ongoing projects included audio recording of hearings with AI-supported transcription, and the introduction of paperless commercial courts.

68. Regarding the prison system, Croatia continued to apply the four square metre standard per detainee. The number of pretrial detainees had risen, partly due to migration-related offences, and they represented about 40 per cent of persons deprived of liberty. To improve the system, electronic monitoring for home detention had been introduced as a pretrial measure in 2024. Modular annexes adding 300 places and a new prison for 400 inmates were under construction, with further facilities planned for the near future.

69. Ukraine commended the progress made by Croatia in advancing human rights, which included measures to combat trafficking in persons, promote gender equality and enhance social inclusion. Ukraine noted positively the efforts of Croatia to advance deinstitutionalization and to develop community-based care for children and persons with disabilities. It noted with gratitude the country's policy towards Ukrainian refugees who had had to flee from military aggression by the Russian Federation and had received temporary protection in Croatia.

70. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland thanked Croatia for its engagement in the universal periodic review process and welcomed the tangible steps, including the most recent National Plan for Gender Equality, that the Government had taken. It noted that Croatia continued to address various topics raised in the last review cycle, and that this was an ongoing process.

71. Uruguay acknowledged the progress made in implementing recommendations from the third review cycle.

72. Uzbekistan commended the progress made by Croatia in strengthening the Ombudsperson and the judiciary, as well as in advancing gender equality by means of the national plan for the period to 2027.

73. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed Croatia and appreciated its presentation, stressing that voluntary cooperation on the universal periodic review brought better outcomes. It acknowledged progress but noted persistent challenges, including discrimination against Roma and Serbs and insufficient support for ethnic minorities.

74. Viet Nam welcomed the delegation of Croatia, appreciated its report, and commended the progress made on human rights frameworks, gender equality and inclusive services.

75. Albania praised the delegation and report of Croatia, highlighting the inclusive preparation process. It commended the commitment of Croatia to human rights, the new national plans, the efforts to protect journalists, the progress on gender equality and the strengthened cooperation with civil society.

76. Armenia appreciated the delegation of Croatia and the country's engagement with the universal periodic review process. It commended the commitment by Croatia to human rights and to advancing democratic institutions, and appreciated its protection of vulnerable groups, and its progress in promoting gender equality, and in combating violence, as well as in improving access to justice.

77. Australia acknowledged the commitment of Croatia to human rights and commended the measures that Croatia had taken to combat gender-based violence, which included addressing technologically facilitated violence and amending the Criminal Code in 2024 to criminalize femicide.

78. Austria commended the delegation of Croatia and the country's progress since the last review cycle, which had included the Independent Border Monitoring Mechanism, and cooperation with international, regional and national institutions. Austria welcomed the legislation on femicide and on protection against gender-based violence, while emphasizing the need for effective implementation.

79. Belgium praised the progress made by Croatia, including the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and efforts to combat trafficking in persons, while urging further action on transitional justice, hate speech and gender-based violence.
80. Brazil commended the new Foreigners Act and efforts to integrate migrants and refugees, noting the National Housing Plan 2025–2030.
81. Canada welcomed the progress made by Croatia in revising legislation to combat violence against women and to strengthen the rights of foreign workers.
82. Chile congratulated Croatia on ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was a significant step forward for transitional justice and human rights.
83. China commended the human rights achievements of Croatia, noting legislative improvements, progress in education and health, and effective measures to protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups since the last review.
84. Colombia commended Croatia for ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and for its openness to international scrutiny by engaging with special procedures.
85. Costa Rica praised the tangible progress made by Croatia, which included ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, enacting legislative reforms that criminalized femicide and increasing penalties for gender-based violence.
86. Cuba noted the efforts of Croatia in promoting human rights and urged the country to translate its national and international commitments into concrete actions, particularly regarding the protection of vulnerable groups and the fight against all forms of discrimination.
87. Cyprus commended the progress made by Croatia since its last review, particularly the adoption of the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking and measures taken to ensure equal access to inclusive, quality education for persons with disabilities.
88. Denmark commended the efforts by Croatia to address strategic lawsuits against public participation, while noting that Croatia still registered one of the highest numbers of such cases in the European Union. Denmark also voiced concern about the absence of universal access to termination of pregnancy.
89. Egypt appreciated the efforts made in implementing the recommendations from the previous cycle. It also valued the steps taken to promote equality and non-discrimination, including the adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Hate Speech.
90. Eritrea welcomed the legislative measures taken by Croatia to strengthen protections for persons with mental health conditions and to promote the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. It also highlighted the adoption of new national plans to combat trafficking in persons and acknowledged the continued commitment by Croatia to upholding the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers.
91. Estonia thanked Croatia for the additional information provided in its opening statement and commended its ongoing efforts to advance human rights, particularly the steps taken to prevent hate speech and the progress achieved in combating intolerance.
92. Ethiopia thanked Croatia for its comprehensive national report and applauded the progress achieved in areas such as climate change adaptation, non-discrimination, and strengthening of the judiciary.
93. France welcomed the measures taken to promote equality between women and men, including the inclusion of femicide as an offence in the Penal Code, as well as efforts to better address the situation of minorities.

94. The Gambia noted the adoption of the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period to 2027 and the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking for the period to 2030. It encouraged Croatia to continue to make progress on equality and inclusion.
95. Georgia acknowledged the active cooperation by Croatia with international and regional human rights mechanisms. It noted the central role of the Ombudsperson in combating discrimination. It welcomed the new anti-trafficking and anti-corruption strategies, and valued the reforms in the areas of mental health and social protection, designed to support vulnerable and marginalized groups.
96. Germany welcomed recent legislative steps to strengthen human rights protection, but noted remaining gaps between legislation and practice, particularly with regard to access to abortion services, and the rise in racist and xenophobic incidents, hate speech and discrimination.
97. Greece commended the efforts of Croatia to foster the equal participation of children with developmental disabilities in education and to prevent disability-based discrimination. It also praised measures to strengthen services for victims of domestic violence and to develop preventive programmes, especially at the local level.
98. The Holy See thanked Croatia for its engagement with the universal periodic review process and acknowledged the Government's ongoing efforts to uphold human rights.
99. Iceland made recommendations.
100. India welcomed the efforts by Croatia to reduce poverty and social exclusion, as well as the country's adoption of the Strategic Framework for Mental Health for the period to 2030 aimed at enhancing accessibility and developing sustainable models of mental healthcare.
101. Indonesia welcomed the adoption by Croatia of the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period to 2027 and noted its importance in addressing racism, xenophobia and intolerance. Indonesia also acknowledged the country's anti-corruption efforts, which included strengthened law enforcement capacities and related national initiatives.
102. The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledged the efforts by Croatia to promote human rights yet remained concerned about several persistent challenges.
103. Iraq welcomed the delegation of Croatia and commended the country's efforts in drafting its reports.
104. The Dominican Republic valued the progress made by Croatia in implementing universal periodic review recommendations on housing, inclusive education, and combating gender-based violence. It acknowledged that consolidating those achievements required ongoing monitoring and noted the firm commitment by Croatia to institutional integrity and the rule of law.
105. Croatia then explained that by 2027 it would implement measures in education, employment and essential services to promote equality and inclusion for the Roma community. The Government supported initiatives to combat discrimination, foster social cohesion, encourage youth and women's participation, provide legal aid and preserve Roma heritage. The National Roma Inclusion Plan offered preschool support, mentoring, teacher training, scholarships and language education to reduce educational disparities and ensure equal school access.
106. In Međimurje county, a Child Guarantee Project with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the European Union was providing integrated education, social and health services for at-risk children and families, including Roma cultural mediators.
107. Croatia recognized the nexus between environmental protection and human rights. Croatia had made progress towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, ranking eighth globally, with a score of 74.39 per cent. The country remained committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, in line with European Union ambitions, and had submitted its updated nationally determined contribution at the thirtieth Conference of the

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Measures promoting decarbonization, energy efficiency and renewable energy had improved air quality, supported by relevant legislation and national plans. Recent initiatives included upgrading the national air monitoring network, promoting electric mobility and enhancing water and sanitation infrastructure.

108. Regarding migrants, Croatia had amended the Aliens Act in March 2025 to improve employment conditions, strengthen employer oversight, and provide language course vouchers for foreign workers. Preparations for implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum required amendments to the Act on International and Temporary Protection. Freedom of movement was restricted only under legal conditions and was subject to judicial review. Migrant children had equal access to education, with comprehensive support from all stakeholders.

109. Croatia had adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Pensioners and Older Persons to uphold dignity and protect older persons from abuse, neglect and discrimination. The Operational Plan for Integrated Long-term Care for the period to 2030 included 18 new elderly care centres and expanded non-institutional services, while the National Elderly Benefit Act provided social support for those over 65 without pensions.

110. Croatia promoted the protection of older persons from discrimination, aiming to improve community services and to adapt them to seniors' needs. These efforts included digital literacy training to enhance access to public services, enabling elderly citizens to independently use the national "e-Citizen" digital platform.

111. Croatia remained committed to combating impunity and strengthening regional cooperation in prosecuting war crimes. The Croatian model for prosecuting war crimes was widely recognized, and Croatian experts had shared its expertise abroad, including with Ukraine. Since 2005, Croatia had facilitated regional agreements for data exchange and operational assistance. Croatia had strengthened protection for civilian victims of the Homeland War through the Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War, which had expanded existing rights and introduced new ones regardless of origin or affiliation.

112. Moreover, the Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during the Armed Aggression against Croatia in the Homeland War provided reparative rights and tailored services even when the perpetrator was unknown, with a focus on restoring dignity, improving quality of life, and ensuring a trauma-sensitive, non-discriminatory, gender-equal approach.

113. Croatia was committed to justice, truth and reconciliation. Croatia supported regional cooperation and encouraged all European Union candidate countries to ensure accountability for war crimes in line with the standards of international humanitarian law.

114. Regarding trafficking in persons, the amendments made in 2025 to the Criminal Code had expanded protection through new criminal provisions, establishing a minimum 10-year prison sentence for the wrongful death of a child victim, and had removed statutory limitations for such cases.

115. Under the new national plan for the suppression of trafficking in persons for the period to 2030, Croatia was enhancing its legal and institutional framework to strengthen victim protection. The measures planned included improved data-sharing protocols, updates to victim assistance procedures, and new provisions ensuring non-punishment and financial compensation for victims.

116. The delegation of Croatia thanked all Member States and stakeholders involved in the universal periodic review interactive dialogue, emphasizing the value of that mechanism for strengthening human rights through constructive cooperation. Croatia voluntarily contributed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reaffirmed its strong commitment to advancing human rights at home and internationally.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

117. The following recommendations will be examined by Croatia, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the sixty-first session of the Human Rights Council:

117.1 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (Togo);

117.2 Consider ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);

117.3 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco);

117.4 Submit the pending report to the Committee against Torture as soon as possible (Chile);

117.5 Continue making targeted efforts to improve national legislation to uphold human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);

117.6 Guarantee truth, justice and reparation for victims of past conflicts by accelerating investigations and providing appropriate redress (Islamic Republic of Iran);

117.7 Strengthen policies for the social and economic inclusion of youth, women, and people from vulnerable communities (Albania);

117.8 Allocate sufficient resources to implement the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (Morocco);

117.9 Continue the effective implementation of the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2023–2027 (Albania);

117.10 Finalize and adopt measurable actions under the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination (Australia);

117.11 Adopt, in a timely manner and in collaboration with civil society, action plans accompanying the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the Suppression of Discrimination, with a focus on measures to address hate speech and crimes targeting minority communities (Canada);

117.12 Enhance measures to address the impacts of digital transformation on vulnerable groups, including by integrating early digital skills training in national human rights planning (Viet Nam);

117.13 Ensure sustainable institutional and financial support for civil society organizations engaged in transitional justice and reconciliation, with particular attention to groups representing minorities and victims of the armed conflict (Brazil);

117.14 Establish a formal framework to guarantee the meaningful inclusion of civil society actors in the development of new policy and legislation (Sweden);

117.15 Continue allocating adequate resources for the Office of the Ombudswoman (Georgia);

117.16 Further strengthen the Office of the Ombudsperson by providing it with the necessary resources to fulfil its broad mandate (Philippines);

117.17 Ensure sufficient resources for the Office of the Ombudswoman to fulfil its mandate effectively (Ukraine);

- 117.18 Continue providing adequate financial and human resources to the Ombudsman's Office (Morocco);
- 117.19 Strengthen the position of the Ombudswoman by providing the additional resources necessary to carry out her mandate effectively, including timely responses to her annual reports, as well as implementation of her recommendations (Germany);
- 117.20 Adopt legislative measures that guarantee the independence of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents and the Office of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality (Chile);
- 117.21 Establish a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, in close consultation with civil society, to enhance compliance with international commitments, overcome reporting delays and ensure effective implementation of human rights recommendations (Portugal);
- 117.22 Continue and strengthen collaboration with civil society in following up on the universal periodic review recommendations (Albania);
- 117.23 Consider implementing awareness campaigns and educational programmes on human rights to combat discrimination (Uruguay);
- 117.24 Continue the actions to ensure the full implementation of all measures aimed at fighting discriminatory attitudes and behaviours against all persons belonging to minority groups (Italy);
- 117.25 Adopt comprehensive and targeted measures to address discrimination, hate crimes and social exclusion experienced by ethnic and national minorities, and take steps to ensure that all cases of hate crime and hate speech are adequately investigated and that proportionate sanctions are applied in cases of conviction (Ireland);
- 117.26 Take effective measures to eliminate hate speech and hate crimes, especially against minorities, and to promote the social inclusion of minorities (Japan);
- 117.27 Strengthen efforts to combat racist hate speech, hate crimes and incitement to violence on racial, national, ethnic or religious grounds by effectively enforcing the anti-discrimination legislative framework, particularly the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code and the protocol for procedures in cases of hate crimes (Belgium);
- 117.28 Strengthen the monitoring, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes and hate speech (Lebanon);
- 117.29 Step up training for police and other law enforcement agencies to prosecute crimes motivated by hatred against the victims and prevent their misidentification as misdemeanours (Pakistan);
- 117.30 Take measures to combat racism and antisemitism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination on religious or ethnic grounds (Russian Federation);
- 117.31 Continue the commitment to ensure gender equality, including by promoting employment among women (Republic of Moldova);
- 117.32 Intensify efforts to promote and ensure inclusive education, while preventing discrimination based on disability (Maldives);
- 117.33 Continue to strengthen measures to prevent and counter hate crime and hate speech, both online and offline, through effective investigation and prosecution, support for victims, and public awareness-raising efforts to promote tolerance (Republic of Korea);
- 117.34 Continue the implementation of policies and comprehensive measures aimed at combating hate speech and hate crime (Republic of Moldova);

- 117.35 **Ensure systematic training for professionals and public authorities on education, human rights, children's rights and the prohibition of discrimination, hate speech and hate crime and promote education about the culture and history of ethnic and national minorities in order to end Roma social exclusion (Poland);**
- 117.36 **Actively enforce hate crime laws and protocols and strengthen the monitoring of hate speech across media and online platforms (Serbia);**
- 117.37 **Strengthen the effective implementation of its policies against racial discrimination and hate speech (Cuba);**
- 117.38 **Ensure full implementation of anti-discrimination laws, particularly to protect ethnic minorities, women and the LGBT+ community, and promote equality through education and public awareness campaigns (Norway);**
- 117.39 **Further strengthen measures to combat all forms of discrimination, particularly regarding access to healthcare (Togo);**
- 117.40 **Further develop awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes to reduce hate speech and promote a culture of tolerance (Jordan);**
- 117.41 **Strengthen the legislative framework to combat and prosecute hate acts, including by clearly prohibiting the public use and display of hate symbols (Luxembourg);**
- 117.42 **Prevent, investigate and sanction hate crime and hate speech through effective implementation of the Penal Code, and provide training to public officials and justice operators in the field (Mexico);**
- 117.43 **Continue strengthening measures to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, including against persons with disabilities, migrants and other vulnerable groups, through the effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and awareness-raising initiatives (Eritrea);**
- 117.44 **Take the necessary measures within the framework of the 2027 National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Racial Discrimination to combat racism, criminalize hate speech, including xenophobia, and oppose all forms of intolerance (Tunisia);**
- 117.45 **Further enhance public awareness and education programmes to combat discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes (Ethiopia);**
- 117.46 **Intensify national initiatives aimed at combating racism and hate speech, and consolidate a culture of tolerance and mutual respect in society (Oman);**
- 117.47 **Adopt comprehensive measures to address racial discrimination (Cyprus);**
- 117.48 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and hate speech, particularly online (Uzbekistan);**
- 117.49 **Continue efforts to provide robust protection against hate speech, including by strengthening the legislative framework and the education system (Indonesia);**
- 117.50 **Increase efforts to combat hate speech by strengthening the teaching of historical memory related to the twentieth century (France);**
- 117.51 **Improve its legislative framework and its implementation to better integrate the immigrant population and to combat discrimination and hate speech against ethnic, racial, sexual and other minorities (Germany);**
- 117.52 **Combat hate speech and racism, especially against religious and national minorities in the country (Iraq);**

- 117.53 Ensure protection of vulnerable groups of the population, including women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and ethnic and religious minorities (Russian Federation);
- 117.54 Intensify efforts to prevent and punish racist hate and hate crimes, and strengthen data collection and training for police, prosecutors and judges (Gambia);
- 117.55 Improve conditions for prisoners in detention, including by reducing overcrowding, ensuring adequate access to healthcare, and strengthening rehabilitation and reintegration measures (Norway);
- 117.56 Continue taking measures to address problems of prison overcrowding (Russian Federation);
- 117.57 Adopt a comprehensive approach to the transitional justice process, encompassing the spheres of truth, justice, reparation, memory, and guarantees of non-repetition (Colombia);
- 117.58 Ensure that all alleged perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other international crimes are effectively investigated and prosecuted (Gambia);
- 117.59 Improve cooperation with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, including through the use of its assistance in evidence-providing, and intensify regional judicial cooperation, aiming at ending impunity for war crimes regardless of the nationality of the suspected perpetrators, and securing justice for all victims of war (Montenegro);
- 117.60 Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat corruption by ensuring independent and effective oversight institutions and accountability for public officials (Norway);
- 117.61 Strengthen the fight against corruption through the effective implementation of existing legislation and the prosecution of cases, ensuring transparency and accountability (Dominican Republic);
- 117.62 Continue efforts to promote transparency and strengthen anti-corruption measures in public administration (Uzbekistan);
- 117.63 Advance the revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Law on the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime in order to increase the efficiency of investigations and prosecutions in corruption cases (Canada);
- 117.64 Enhance efforts to ensure justice, truth and reparation for all victims of war crimes and conflict-related violations, by advancing a comprehensive and victim-centred reparation framework and strengthening cooperation with civil society (Republic of Korea);
- 117.65 Continue efforts to ensure timely access to justice and free legal aid for vulnerable and marginalized groups (Ethiopia);
- 117.66 Enhance judicial efficiency and independence, including by strengthening transparency in judicial processes (Armenia);
- 117.67 Take more decisive action to combat judicial inefficiency and corruption, particularly by strengthening the independence of the justice system (Holy See);
- 117.68 Promote judicial reform and strive to realize the vision of judicial justice for all (China);
- 117.69 Re-evaluate and improve the legal and institutional framework for human rights defenders, to ensure consultation and participation in decision-making processes, as well as sustainable funding schemes for their work (Germany);

- 117.70 Strengthen support for journalists by transposing the European directive against SLAPP into national law, in order to combat impunity for acts of aggression against them (France);
- 117.71 Review defamation laws and implement procedural safeguards and legal reforms to prevent and address Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) targeting journalists (Canada);
- 117.72 Systematically monitor proceedings against the media and SLAPP cases and publish all judgments against the media on court websites (Denmark);
- 117.73 Adopt measures to prevent the use of strategic lawsuits for the purpose of intimidation against journalists and media outlets (known as SLAPPs), guaranteeing the full protection of freedom of the press and expression (Spain);
- 117.74 Ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers, and effectively investigate threats against them and implement comprehensive anti-SLAPP legislation (Austria);
- 117.75 Promptly investigate and prosecute all forms of threats and attacks against journalists, ensuring full accountability, and introduce robust anti-SLAPP safeguards to strengthen media freedom (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 117.76 Strengthen efforts to uphold freedom of expression and to strengthen the protection and safety of journalists, by promptly investigating and prosecuting all attacks, threats and intimidation, such as SLAPPs, and by ensuring accountability (Romania);
- 117.77 Take further measures to preserve a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, ensuring they can do their work without facing harassment and intimidation and effectively investigating and prosecuting attacks against them (Portugal);
- 117.78 Take tangible steps, including where necessary amendments to laws, to ensure that journalists are able to operate independently without fear of targeting, imprisonment or other retribution against their persons (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 117.79 Respect the right to freedom of expression and media independence, including by protecting journalists from harassment and violence, and ensuring transparency in media ownership (Norway);
- 117.80 Continue efforts to strengthen media freedom online and offline, and to further enhance the protection of journalists (Estonia);
- 117.81 Take further measures to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers, particularly at the local level (Greece);
- 117.82 Ensure an enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders, including legal safeguards against harassment and intimidation, and publishing all judgments against the media and human rights defenders on court websites (Australia);
- 117.83 Ensure a safe environment for human rights defenders' work and public funding for human rights work (Poland);
- 117.84 Ensure an enabling and safe environment for human rights defenders' work (Cyprus);
- 117.85 Maintain and strengthen support for civil society and human rights defenders, guaranteeing a safe environment and stable funding mechanisms, especially for victim support and the promotion of transitional justice (Dominican Republic);

117.86 **Review legislation on defamation with a view to strengthening the right to freedom of speech by reducing the number of cases brought against journalists and media outlets through so-called strategic lawsuits against public participation (Sweden);**

117.87 **Improve the clarity of the national legislation on hate speech to ensure consistent legal application and facilitate the development of judicial practice (Sweden);**

117.88 **Ensure that judicial and police mechanisms respond swiftly, impartially and sensitively to cases of intimidation, aggression and threats, including those occurring in digital environments (Cuba);**

117.89 **Bolster measures to eliminate child marriage by adopting a comprehensive approach that addresses its root causes, together with ensuring the prompt investigation and prosecution of all cases, establishing penalties for those who perform or facilitate child marriage, and providing access to effective remedies and other forms of necessary protection for victims (South Africa);**

117.90 **Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons by implementing the relevant national plan and achieving its objectives, particularly in awareness-raising and prevention activities (Greece);**

117.91 **Fully implement the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking until 2030 and the corresponding action plans, ensuring effective protection and support for victims (Lebanon);**

117.92 **Ensure the effective implementation of legislation prohibiting human trafficking (China);**

117.93 **Strengthen the national specialized human trafficking investigation unit with an adequate staff of trained permanent prosecutors and support personnel (Costa Rica);**

117.94 **Establish specialized protection and support for women and girls who are victims of trafficking, addressing their specific traumas and vulnerabilities (Uruguay);**

117.95 **Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly affecting women and girls (Indonesia);**

117.96 **Accelerate efforts to close the gender pay gap also in the private sector (Luxembourg);**

117.97 **Enhance policy interventions to increase women's participation in the labour market, including by addressing the gender pay gap (Philippines);**

117.98 **Adopt public policies that reduce the gender pay gap and that promote the equitable distribution of domestic work and caregiving between women and men (Costa Rica);**

117.99 **Intensify measures to reduce unemployment among women and girls with basic education, promote women's participation in the labour market, and support their transition to formal employment through targeted public-sector schemes (North Macedonia);**

117.100 **Take effective measures to increase women's participation in the labour market, especially in rural areas (Estonia);**

117.101 **Strengthen efforts to ensure the protection of migrant workers from all forms of violence, and to safeguard their economic and social rights (Indonesia);**

117.102 **Redouble efforts to combat poverty, particularly among single-parent families, Roma communities, and older persons in rural areas (North Macedonia);**

- 117.103 **Redouble efforts to combat poverty, paying special attention to single-parent families, Roma, and older persons (Colombia);**
- 117.104 **Strengthen national efforts against poverty and social exclusion to address the high incidence of poverty, including extreme poverty, in groups facing marginalization as well as persons in vulnerable situations (Pakistan);**
- 117.105 **Adopt specific measures to reduce poverty among older persons, including by improving social benefits and increasing access to long-term support services that are affordable (Mexico);**
- 117.106 **Continue the reform measures to reduce poverty and social exclusion and to support access to housing to improve the living standards of its people (Sri Lanka);**
- 117.107 **Increase funding for basic healthcare services in regions and areas with limited access to such services to ensure that all people, including national minorities, enjoy equal access (Malta);**
- 117.108 **Improve access to quality healthcare services in regions and areas with limited access to such services (India);**
- 117.109 **Strengthen community-based mental health services and reduce the use of coercive measures in psychiatric and social welfare institutions (Malaysia);**
- 117.110 **Take concrete measures to guarantee effective access to sexual and reproductive healthcare in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and general recommendation No. 24 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Switzerland);**
- 117.111 **Continue implementing the national strategy to combat drug addiction and to strengthen prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes, particularly among young people (Oman);**
- 117.112 **Make further efforts to improve equal access to inclusive and quality education for vulnerable persons, including minorities, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and displaced persons (Japan);**
- 117.113 **Continue to promote equal access to inclusive and quality education through the measures set out in its development plan regarding the right to education for persons with disabilities (Greece);**
- 117.114 **Continue efforts to ensure inclusive access to education and employment (Senegal);**
- 117.115 **Continue improving the access to quality education, particularly for children with disabilities and special needs (Georgia);**
- 117.116 **Strengthen access to education and support for children with developmental disorders, including funding for teaching assistants and assistive technologies (Malaysia);**
- 117.117 **Strengthen efforts to combat the school dropout rates of minorities and other vulnerable groups at all levels of the educational system (Malta);**
- 117.118 **Take further measures to reduce the school dropout rate and ensure inclusive education (Republic of Moldova);**
- 117.119 **Redouble its efforts to reduce the school dropout rate, and enable access to quality primary education, while paying particular attention to marginalized communities, including the Roma community (India);**
- 117.120 **Intensify efforts to reduce the school dropout rate (Estonia);**
- 117.121 **Redouble efforts to reduce the dropout rate by ensuring that all children have access to quality education (Luxembourg);**

- 117.122 Intensify efforts to reduce school dropout rates and promote equal access to quality education for Roma children (Sierra Leone);
- 117.123 Strengthen educational policies aimed at reducing school dropout rates, ensuring that Roma children and children from minority groups have the same opportunities for access to and participation in education, without facing any form of exclusion or discrimination (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 117.124 Consider integrating human rights education in school curricula at all levels, as part of a broader strategy to counter all forms of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes against minorities, migrants, asylum-seekers and other groups in situations of vulnerability, ultimately fostering a culture of respect for diversity and social cohesion (Philippines);
- 117.125 Consider supporting the development of a new optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, explicitly recognizing the right to early childhood education and guaranteeing free pre-primary and secondary education (Dominican Republic);
- 117.126 Continue to guarantee and raise awareness of the right to use minority languages and scripts, in compliance with its domestic legal frameworks (Japan);
- 117.127 Redouble efforts to reduce the fragility of natural systems and society within the context of implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation policies (Tunisia);
- 117.128 Scale up efforts to address the impacts of climate change and support the affected communities to design and implement appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures (Nepal);
- 117.129 Continue to strengthen the implementation of climate adaptation measures with active community participation and regional cooperation (Ethiopia);
- 117.130 Ensure that major infrastructure and other development projects publish and comply with robust environmental impact assessment mechanisms before being approved by public authorities (Costa Rica);
- 117.131 Develop a national action plan on business and human rights in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on the matter (Chile);
- 117.132 Implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to prevent human rights abuses by business entities, improve the legislation on social security to allow collection of the guaranteed minimum benefit and exemption in cases of illness across the country and ensure the adequate level of the guaranteed minimum benefit and national benefits for older persons through a transparent indexation system (Poland);
- 117.133 Continue its efforts towards combating gender-based violence and promote gender equality in all walks of life (Nepal);
- 117.134 Strengthen national efforts to ensure equal participation of all groups in public life, with a focus on the empowerment of youth and women (Jordan);
- 117.135 Intensify efforts to promote women's empowerment through training and protection measures (Malaysia);
- 117.136 Take effective measures to increase women's participation in the labour market, particularly in rural areas, and accelerate women's transition to formal work, while addressing the gender pay gap (Maldives);
- 117.137 Strengthen women's participation in the labour market and close the gender pay gap (Ukraine);
- 117.138 Take action to further promote women's participation in the labour market, and women's transition to formal work (Sri Lanka);

- 117.139 Continue working to ensure gender equality, particularly equal pay and equal opportunities in the labour market (Tunisia);
- 117.140 Continue to further advance women's meaningful participation and leadership, including by strengthening the implementation of the National Plan for Gender Equality by 2027 (Viet Nam);
- 117.141 Accelerate efforts to close the gender pay gap (Cyprus);
- 117.142 Implement the Istanbul Convention through national laws and policies, ensuring a gender-sensitive approach throughout (Iceland);
- 117.143 Advance women's empowerment and protection from gender-based violence (Gambia);
- 117.144 Ensure and monitor that the exercise of conscientious objection by healthcare personnel does not pose an obstacle for women who wish to terminate a pregnancy (Denmark);
- 117.145 Remove barriers and ensure universal access to abortion (Iceland);
- 117.146 Increase efforts to provide mandatory culturally and gender-sensitive and trauma-informed training to all judges, police, and social service providers interacting with survivors of domestic abuse, gender-based violence and human trafficking (Ireland);
- 117.147 Take further steps to ensure full implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and provide regular, gender-sensitive training to justice, law enforcement, health and social service professionals on domestic violence (Portugal);
- 117.148 Improve institutional support for women victims of violence, including by providing regular gender-sensitive trainings within the judiciary, the police and the social and healthcare system (Montenegro);
- 117.149 Strengthen prevention and social education plans to promote the reporting of gender-based violence and ensure that victims receive effective assistance and protection (Chile);
- 117.150 Ensure the collection and regular publication of disaggregated data on all forms of gender-based and domestic violence, to guide evidence-based policies and responses (Costa Rica);
- 117.151 Collect and publish disaggregated data on all forms of gender-based violence to guide evidence-based policy and response (Iceland);
- 117.152 Adopt a comprehensive, victim-centred reparations policy to implement the existing legal framework and ensure effective and timely reparations for all categories of victims, including those affected by sexual and gender-based violence (Belgium);
- 117.153 Continue efforts to reduce violence against women and girls by enhancing the implementation of existing strategic and legal frameworks (Lebanon);
- 117.154 Strengthen measures to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including through effective law enforcement and adequate victim support (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 117.155 Boost efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and domestic violence, and to protect victims, by ensuring their access to and the full enforcement of restraining orders, including through appropriate sanctions against perpetrators (Romania);
- 117.156 Abolish the practice of dual arrests and prosecutions of both the victim and the perpetrator in cases of domestic violence (Slovakia);

- 117.157 Ensure the participation of women's rights experts, including experts from NGOs, in government bodies dealing with violence against women and domestic violence (Slovakia);
- 117.158 Provide training to authorities on remedies in a protection order and prioritize those that protect the safety of the victim, including removal of the perpetrator from the shared home when requested (Slovakia);
- 117.159 Evaluate the implementation of laws and policies aimed at protecting women and children from domestic violence, sexual violence and abuse, ensuring a gender-sensitive approach, and provide mandatory, regular training to judges, police, prosecutors, social workers, healthcare and psychological service providers (Austria);
- 117.160 Ensure effective access to and enforcement of protection orders, including appropriate sanctions for violations (Slovakia);
- 117.161 Strengthen gender-responsive training for investigating and responding to violence against women and domestic violence for police and the judiciary, with a view to ensuring effective prosecution of gender-based crimes (Slovenia);
- 117.162 Ensure that the exercise of conscientious objection by healthcare personnel does not pose an obstacle for women who wish to terminate their pregnancy (South Africa);
- 117.163 Strengthen measures to address gender-based violence, including through adequate support services for survivors and capacity-building for law enforcement authorities (Mongolia);
- 117.164 Strengthen legislative and regulatory measures on domestic violence, while increasing resources allocated to education and awareness programmes on gender equality in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Spain);
- 117.165 Ensure sustainable funding for specialized, inclusive and accessible shelters for victims and survivors of gender-based violence (Iceland);
- 117.166 Further pursue the efforts to combat all forms of violence against women by broadening the legal definition of sexual violence, by providing proper training to the personnel involved in its prosecution and by ensuring effective enforcement of existing legislation (Italy);
- 117.167 Ensure the full and gender-sensitive implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) by providing adequate funding, expanding access to specialized support services, and improving institutional coordination (Belgium);
- 117.168 Further improve the child protection system to ensure adequate reception and care for unaccompanied and separated children, while expanding family- and community-based alternatives and ending the immigration-related detention of children (Republic of Korea);
- 117.169 Expand family- and community-based care for unaccompanied children and intensify efforts to eliminate child marriage (Ukraine);
- 117.170 Eliminate the detention of children, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, and make greater use of alternatives to imprisonment (Colombia);
- 117.171 Enhance the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly in access to employment, education, and independent living (Mongolia);
- 117.172 Further enhance the social inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities (Uzbekistan);

- 117.173 **Expand efforts to improve community-based services and inclusive education for children with disabilities, with a focus on equal access across all regions (Viet Nam);**
- 117.174 **Support inclusive education initiatives for children with developmental disorders and provide the necessary resources to ensure their active participation in society (Oman);**
- 117.175 **Take all reasonable steps to ensure that those with disabilities are provided with reasonable adjustment and equal opportunities in the workplace under its domestic law (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 117.176 **Promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for the Serbian and Roma minorities, addressing educational segregation and ensuring equitable access to services, housing and employment (Dominican Republic);**
- 117.177 **Redouble efforts against racial discrimination and segregation against national minorities, including Serbs and Roma (Luxembourg);**
- 117.178 **Protect the rights of the Serbian and Roma minorities, including by fully implementing the right to equal usage of minority languages and scripts, as well as by taking measures to effectively address incitement to hatred and hate crimes (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 117.179 **Continue to promote a culture of dialogue, tolerance and systematic respect for the rights of national minorities (Senegal);**
- 117.180 **Strengthen the protection of all minorities, including the Serbian minority, by actively combating discrimination and intolerance, and ensuring the equal enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights (Serbia);**
- 117.181 **Strengthen efforts to positively use the potential of people belonging to national and ethnic minorities (Slovakia);**
- 117.182 **Strengthen measures to promote and protect the rights of minorities, especially Roma community members (Sierra Leone);**
- 117.183 **Improve conditions for the functioning of national minority organizations by supporting the provision of premises for their work and activities at the local level (Slovenia);**
- 117.184 **Expand political participation spaces for minorities in Parliament, local advisory councils and other key administrative bodies (Cuba);**
- 117.185 **Take effective measures to ensure genuine equality in the representation and public participation of persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities, in State institutions and bodies (Egypt);**
- 117.186 **Strengthen the institutional response to eliminate all forms of discrimination against ethnic minorities in the education of Roma minority children (Chile);**
- 117.187 **Redouble efforts to reduce the school dropout rate, including within the Roma national minority (Cyprus);**
- 117.188 **Continue efforts to effectively implement the National Plan for the Inclusion of Roma, and establish effective monitoring and response mechanisms against any form of discrimination towards this and other minorities (Costa Rica);**
- 117.189 **Strengthen efforts to promote the progressive integration of minorities, particularly the Roma community, by combating prejudice, alleviating poverty and preventing segregation (Holy See);**
- 117.190 **Strengthen public policies to combat discrimination against minorities, especially the Roma population, ensuring effective access to housing, education and essential services, as well as enforcing the Criminal Code to curb hate speech (Brazil);**

- 117.191 **Adopt urgent measures to carry out thorough and impartial investigations into hate crimes committed against minorities in the country, fully guaranteeing access to justice, accountability, and reparation for the victims (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 117.192 **Strengthen efforts to counter racist hate speech and hate crimes against the Roma, Serbian and Bosniak populations, including by actively enforcing relevant sections of the Criminal Code and established protocols for handling hate crime cases (South Africa);**
- 117.193 **Systematically condemn all instances of nationalist and anti-minority rhetoric in the public and political discourse and the media, and ensure effective investigation and sanctioning of hate crimes (Slovenia);**
- 117.194 **Ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Penal Code and protocols relating to the treatment of hate crimes targeting minorities and vulnerable groups (Switzerland);**
- 117.195 **Work to ensure a fair representation of national and ethnic minorities in public life, particularly in the judiciary (Iraq);**
- 117.196 **Combat hate speech or hate crimes directed against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as LGBTIQ+ persons and foreign workers (Austria);**
- 117.197 **Supplement its National Plan for Roma Inclusion, which already recognizes the challenges facing the Roma community, by making its Action Plan more ambitious and considering new measures to help achieve the goals set out in it (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 117.198 **Ban conversion therapy (Iceland);**
- 117.199 **Strengthen mechanisms for prosecuting and preventing hate crimes through the effective application of the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, particularly regarding conduct against the LGBTI community and the Roma population (Spain);**
- 117.200 **Respect intersex children's right to self-determination and ban medically unnecessary surgeries (Iceland);**
- 117.201 **Reform the family foster care system to ensure equal treatment for same-sex couples (Cuba);**
- 117.202 **Implement relevant policies and measures to protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other specific groups (China);**
- 117.203 **Work to improve the conditions of asylum-seekers and migrants in the country, and reduce the serious violations they face by law enforcement authorities (Iraq);**
- 117.204 **Take steps for integrating immigrants into the educational system and opportunities to work (India);**
- 117.205 **Effectively investigate and address reports of violence against migrant women and foster inclusive education programmes with a special focus on migrant students (Pakistan);**
- 117.206 **Continue efforts to combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance, particularly against migrant workers (Sierra Leone);**
- 117.207 **Take further steps towards full compliance with Croatia's anti-discrimination legislation to support integration of refugees and migrants and provisions of public services to minority groups (Australia);**
- 117.208 **Continue strengthening measures to ensure the protection of migrants and asylum-seekers, including by further promoting access to effective safeguards (Armenia);**

117.209 **Adopt further measures to ensure full respect for the rights of refugees and migrants, in line with international and regional legal obligations (Holy See);**

117.210 **Ensure full respect for the rights of refugees and migrants by preventing border pushbacks and guaranteeing access to asylum procedures and essential services (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

117.211 **Enhance the protection of migrants and asylum-seekers, including by further strengthening independent monitoring, and ensuring access to fair procedures and integration support (Eritrea);**

117.212 **Strengthen protection for migrants and asylum-seekers, including children, through family- and community-based care, access to healthcare, and trafficking prevention (Gambia);**

117.213 **Ensure that all people in need of international protection have effective access to the territory and to a fair and effective asylum procedure, including through frontline training and gender-sensitive protocols (Uruguay);**

117.214 **Protect the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers as per international standards, bolster cooperation with UNHCR and local organizations to ensure humanitarian assistance, both legal and psychosocial, and restructure the Asylum Fund to support sustainable integration programmes (Mexico);**

117.215 **Continue efforts to combat irregular immigration while respecting the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees, paying particular attention to combating human trafficking (France);**

117.216 **Take effective measures to eradicate statelessness (North Macedonia).**

118. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Croatia was headed by Mr Ivan CRNČEC, State Secretary; Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation and composed of the following members:

- Ms Andrea Javor, Chargé d'affaires ad interim; Permanent Mission of Croatia to the UN, Geneva;
- Mr Dražen JELENIĆ, Deputy State Attorney General; State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia;
- Ms Klaudija KREGAR OREŠKOVIĆ, Deputy Director, Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- Ms Danijela GAUBE, Director, Directorate for Human Rights, National Minorities and Ethics; Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation;
- Ms Martina BOGUT BARIĆ, Director, Independent Directorate for Health System Controlling and Human Resources; Ministry of Health;
- Ms Nives ZVONARIĆ, Director, Directorate for Media and Development of Cultural and Creative Industries; Ministry of Culture and Media;
- Ms Vesna VUKOVIĆ, Director, Directorate for the UN and Global Affairs, Directorate-General for Multilateral and Global Affairs; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;
- Ms Branka PIVČEVIĆ NOVAK, Director, Directorate for Climate Activities; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition;
- Mr Nandor ČAPO, Director, Directorate for National Minorities; Ministry of Science, Education and Youth;
- Ms Tatjana KATKIĆ STANIĆ, Director, Directorate for Social Policy; Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy;
- Mr Tomislav BORŠIĆ, Director, Directorate for European Affairs and International Cooperation; Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation;
- Mr Dario DUDAS, Director, Directorate for International protection; Ministry of Interior;
- Ms Ana KORDEJ, acting Director, Directorate for Criminal Law; Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation;
- Ms Snježana FRANKOVIĆ, Head, Department for Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Welfare Institutions, Directorate for the Development of Social Services; Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy;
- Mr Marko PAŠKVAN, Head, Department for Human Rights, Directorate for the UN and Global Affairs, Directorate-General for Multilateral and Global Affairs; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;
- Mr Krešimir MAMIĆ, Head, Counter Terrorism Department, Criminal Police Directorate, General Police Directorate; Ministry of Interior;
- Ms Ivona PALTRINIERI, Senior Specialist Advisor, Department for processing and identification of mortal remains and funeral care, Directorate for searching for Persons detained and missing in the Homeland War, Directorate for Detained and Missing Persons; Ministry of Croatian Veterans Affairs;
- Ms Tihana BALIJA, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the UN, Geneva;

- Ms Blaženka PAVLIČEK BUDIMIR, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the UN, Geneva;
  - Mr Antonio NIKOLIĆ, Associate; Department for Regional International Organizations and Initiatives, Directorate for the UN and Global Affairs, Directorate-General for Multilateral and Global Affairs; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;
  - Martina ŠUKER, Associate; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the UN, Geneva.
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