



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
G E N E V A

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STATEMENT
BY

H.E. MS. KOLINDA GRABAR - KITAROVIĆ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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Geneva

Mr. President,
Madam High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you Mr. President and the other members of the Bureau, on your election. My delegation wishes you all the best in performing your important duties.

As a candidate country the Republic of Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights drafted by the former Commission on Human Rights is still awaiting its real and universal implementation.

For that reason, Croatia believes that the establishment of the Human Rights Council provides us with a unique opportunity to further promote the implementation of human rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and core UN human rights treaties. We sincerely hope that this Council will encourage states to accept and to abide by established human rights standards.

In particular, the introduction of a universal periodic review should provide a transparent and objective tool for the assessment of the protection of human rights, at the national level, in all UN member states.

The new Human Rights Council should address the gap between adopted human rights standards and their implementation and continue its work on standard setting.

It is also important that an effective relationship between the Council and treaty bodies be created.

The credibility of the Human Rights Council will, to a very large extent, depend on its determination to provide effective follow-up of recommendations of its various procedures.

In the process of the elaboration of the Council's working methods, it is extremely important to preserve the constructive participation of human rights defenders and NGOs.

Mr. President,

We believe that the Human Rights Council will be able to successfully integrate women's human rights in all its agenda items, as well as to:

- focus its attention more closely on the violations of women's rights;
- retain and reinforce the mandates of gender-related special procedures;
- integrate the gender dimension in the mandates of all existing special procedures;