



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
PUČKI PRAVOBRANITELJ
PPR – 6-08-412/19-16-2
Zagreb, December 30, 2019

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Benjamin Schachter, Climate Change Focal Point

Dear Mr. Schachter,

Following up to the request for contribution to the research and report that the OHCHR is preparing in accordance with the HRC Resolution A/HRC/41/21 entitled “Human Rights and Climate Change”, here is the contribution of the Croatian Ombudswoman, Mrs. Lora Vidović.

Besides the institution of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia which holds the A status of NHRI, there are three other special ombudspersons in the Republic of Croatia; Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, Ombudsperson for Children and Ombudsperson for Persons with Disabilities. Therefore, regarding the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change, for which you asked to be specifically addressed in this contribution, we inform you that it is not in our mandate as a specific focus, since it belongs to the mandate of the Ombudsperson for Persons for Disabilities.

Nevertheless, we can reiterate what we have written in our letter last year. The active role of the Croatian Ombudsman in the field of Environmental protection and climate change is foreseen in human rights based approach (HRBA) in variety of topics (protection of environment, nature and natural resources, sustainable development, pollution of the air, water and soil, noise and light pollution, electromagnetic pollution (non-ionizing radiation), waste management) in which we recognize an interrelation and interdependence of environmental protection and climate change with health/health ecology, civil protection/defense (floods, fires, other natural disasters), spatial planning and construction, economy, transport, education, etc.

Right to healthy life (Environmental Protection) as a specific Chapter, became an integral part of Annual Report of the Croatian Ombudswoman to the Croatian Parliament in 2013 and so far, six annual reports with this chapter have been submitted, while the seventh is being prepared.

In relation to the climate change, “*Special Report of the Ombudswoman on the Human Rights during the Catastrophe caused by Flood in Eastern Croatia*” was submitted to the Croatian Parliament in 2014.

The Annual Report to the Croatian Parliament for the Year 2017, contains two specific Chapters: Chapter 3.29. THE RIGHT TO HEALTHY LIVING: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, WASTE and Chapter 3.30. CLIMATE CHANGE, CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM, FIRE-FIGHTING AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – THE FIRE IN SPLIT). For more information about annual reports you can visit: <https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/reports/>.

The Annual Report for the Year 2019 is being prepared and will follow the same structure as previous annual reports. Also, a Specific Report on Climate Change and Human Rights will be delivered to the Croatian Parliament by the end of June 2020.

We believe that our contribution could be useful for the further improvement of human rights protection system and we remain at your disposal for future cooperation.

Sincerely,

REPUBLICA HRVATSKA
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DEPUTY OMBUDSWOMAN
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Lidija Lukina Kezić