

Intervention by Bangladesh delegation on the UPR of Montenegro

Thank you Mr. President.

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Montenegro led by the Minister for Human and Minority rights. We appreciate the candid and comprehensive presentation of the National Report.

My delegation has taken note with appreciation that the government of Montenegro has adopted many actions in legislative and institutional areas to promote and protect human rights. We welcome in particular, actions like the prison reforms, the establishment of local gender equality structures in local government offices, Strategy for the Reform of the Judiciary and ratification of CRPD. We welcome the campaigns initiated to prevent and combat negative attitudes based on sex, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion and disability as innovative and noteworthy.

However, my delegation finds that there remains scope for improvement. We would like to draw attention to some concerns raised by treaty bodies and UN entities that require serious reflection. Persistence of discrimination against children of minority groups, refugee children and children with disabilities, in particular with regard to access to education, health care and housing is one of such issues of concern. Despite the welcoming step to introduce the action plan to implement the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Populations (RAE) in Montenegro for the period 2008-2012, CEDAW was concerned at multiple forms of discrimination against Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) women. Another area of concern is the instances of stereotyped and sometimes degrading images of women by media.

Mr. President,

My delegation recommends that the government of Montenegro,

1. Strengthen actions to combat discrimination and negative attitudes against women, including women belonging to Roma and migrants and against children of minority groups; and
2. While promoting and protecting freedom of expression and opinion, pay due attention to commensurate responsibility in protecting rights of others and respect to others.