



CROATIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

GENEVA

Statement by

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Ambassador

Permanent Representative

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the Universal Periodic Review**

Review of Montenegro

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I would like to start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of the Republic of Montenegro and to thank them for the presentation of their comprehensive report.

The Republic of Croatia welcomes the steps taken by Montenegro with regard to the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR cycle, especially those undertaken to **ensure the rights of prisoners** as well as to **protect citizens from all forms of discrimination**, including the protection of the LGBT group members as one of the most vulnerable groups in our societies.

- In this light, we would like to ask Montenegro **to further elaborate the concrete measures that have been taken with the aim to strengthen the conditions in prisons and reduce the prisoner population.**

The Republic of Croatia follows with interest the cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and civil society organizations in the preparation of the **Strategy for Combating the Homophobia**, which will further pave the way for new laws on the protection of the same sex union members.

- According to this cooperation, could you provide additional information concerning the **date for the finalization of the Strategy, the role and the engagement of the civil sector as well as the main principles upon which the Strategy has been based?**

Finally, the Republic of Croatia as a country that will soon become a full-fledged member of the European Union, **would like to support Montenegro on their path to the EU.** In order to assist the European processes we stand ready to share our experiences and contribute constructively to the reforms in neighboring country based on democracy and European values.