



## Universal Periodic Review of MONTENEGRO, 28 January 2013

### Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia very warmly welcomes the high level delegation of Montenegro headed by ... to the UPR's 15th session. We thank Montenegro for its work in preparing the national report presented earlier and also for the additional information given in the opening statement.

Since the previous cycle of the UPR in 2008 Montenegro has achieved considerable progress in developing a stable legal and institutional framework for exercising, protecting and promoting human rights. We acknowledge the establishment of several working bodies with the authority to monitor the implementation of policies for the protection and full enjoyment of human rights.

Estonia notes positively the ratifications by Montenegro of several important human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (**OPCAT**) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**).

We welcome activities that have been undertaken to ensure gender equality, for example the amendments to the Labor Law designated to guarantee equal treatment based on gender. We encourage Montenegro to continue with these efforts.

We also note the progress made in fighting against **human trafficking**. We encourage Montenegro's authorities to effectively implement the 2012–2018 Strategy and Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking.

My delegation marks with pleasure that important developments have taken place regarding **freedom of media** and expression. The relevant legislation has been harmonized with European standards, including the decriminalization of libel. We believe that even more could be done to ensure the protection of journalists, especially by intensifying efforts in the investigation and prosecution of cases of violence against journalists.

Finally, we note with satisfaction that Montenegro has undertaken a number of initiatives on child protection and on preventing corruption. Estonia **recommends** Montenegro to further their efforts to implement anti-corruption laws and regulations.

We would like to wish to the delegation of Montenegro a successful review meeting.

Thank you!