

Statement by Hungary on Montenegro, UPR Session 15, 28 January 2013
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Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Montenegro to this UPR and thanks the Government for the detailed national report and its constructive dialogue with civil society during the preparation thereof. We congratulate the Government on strengthening the legislative framework to implement international human rights standards including the recently ratified OPCAT, CRPD, its optional protocol and CED.

Hungary commends the overall achievements of Montenegro, recognized also by other stakeholders, in the fields of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, ensuring social and economic rights as well as the protection of minorities and cultural values. We welcome that the administrative capacity and budget of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms have been strengthened.

We positively note that the amended law on minorities now warrants the political representation of minorities on national and local level as well as the creation of the 6 minority councils. At the same time, we regret that deficiencies in the funding mechanism have adversely affected optimal functioning of these bodies. **We therefore recommend** that Montenegro create a managing board overseeing the allocation of funding to minority councils to prevent any possible conflict of interest.

Hungary welcomes the fact that Montenegro had begun to address social stigma and other obstacles people with disabilities are facing. Nevertheless the situation of children with disabilities is still to be improved. Therefore we **recommend** that the Government establish a monitoring system for special care institutions for children and develops an action plan to gradually include such children in the general school system.

Finally, we commend the Government for the good cooperation extended to the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) and we would appreciate to receive more information on how Montenegro intends to address allegations of serious violations of human rights by police officers. In this respect, we would **recommend** that the Government ensure independent and efficient investigations within the suggested deadline of 15 months, as recommended by the SPT.

Thank you, Mr. President.