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15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group (21 January-1 February 2013)

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania
at the review of Montenegro
28 January 2013**

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Montenegro and thanks for the informative National Report. We welcome the inclusive process of preparation of the report that involved broad public discussion and active participation of different state and non-state actors.

We would like to commend Montenegro for the achieved progress in development of legislative and institutional framework for promotion and protection of human rights since the first UPR. In particular, we note with satisfaction the Law on the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms strengthening the structure and independence of the Ombudsman. We welcome the adoption of the general Anti-discrimination law providing for the grounds and mechanisms for the protection from direct and indirect discrimination, as well as strengthening the role of the Ombudsman in relation to discrimination. While acknowledging the efforts undertaken by Montenegro to counter discrimination, we note that the above mentioned laws have not been fully implemented and the capacity of the Ombudsman's office to address discrimination issues remains a challenge. In this regard, we recommend the Government of Montenegro: 1) to take further measures to implement the Anti-discrimination Law, including through awareness raising activities, 2) to strengthen the mandate and resources of the Ombudsman's office in order to ensure full implementation of the duties in accordance with the Law on the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms.

We note with satisfaction the continuous harmonization of media legislation with international standards, especially the amendments to the Criminal Code decriminalizing defamation. At the same we are concerned about the attacks against journalists which impede the functioning of the media sector in a truly open and free manner. To this end, we recommend to Montenegro: 1) to ensure that impartial and effective investigations of attacks against journalists take place and that those responsible are brought to justice; 2) to take measures to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference.

I thank you.