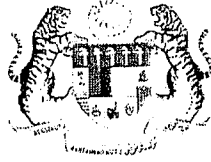


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Mohd Hasril A. Hamid
Counsellor

STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Montenegro
15th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
21 January – 1 February 2013

Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Montenegro, led by H.E. Suad Numanovic, to the 15th Session of the UPR Working Group and thank them for the presentation of its national report.

2. My delegation commends the consultative approach of Montenegro in the preparation of its national report. Malaysia also notes the various measures that have been adopted by Montenegro to further promote and protect human rights in the country since its first review, including the strengthening of its legislative and institutional frameworks.

3. Significant achievements have been made in the fight against discrimination, promotion of gender equality, protecting the rights of children and persons with disabilities and combating human trafficking. In particular, Malaysia commends Montenegro's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the amendments made to its regulatory framework so as to be in line with the provisions of the said Convention. Malaysia also commends the efforts made by Montenegro to improve women's participation in all aspects of life, including in politics and the civil sector.

4. While Montenegro has made significant strides in many areas of human rights, my delegation notes that it is still faced with challenges, as mentioned in its national report, on the lack of capacity which could affect the full enjoyment of rights by minority groups, including Muslims; and accessibility to public buildings for the disabled.

5. In the spirit of constructive engagement and cooperation, my delegation would like to make the following two recommendations for the consideration of Montenegro:

- 5.1. to continue its positive measures in advancing the rights of its minority groups, including Muslims, through the allocation of sufficient funding; and
- 5.2. to enhance its efforts on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons of disabilities in line with its Strategy for Integration 2008-2016.

I thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
28 January 2013