

PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

## 15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group Geneva, 21 January to 1 February 2013

Statement by Norway:

## **UPR on Montenegro**

Thank you Mr. President,

Norway thanks the delegation of Montenegro for presenting its national report and for the comments and answers provided here today.

Our overall impression is that the human rights situation in Montenegro has improved since the previous review, in line with the overall development since Montenegro's independence. We note that Montenegro has established a range of institutions the recent years contributing to the enforcement of human rights, and that these institutions are actively participating in the public discussion on the issue.

Despite an overall positive trend, there is still a need for increased and sustained efforts in several areas, predominantly related to implementation of international standards and harmonization of the legal framework. We encourage the Government of Montenegro to continue this process as a matter of priority.

The Ombudsman plays an important role in enforcing human rights for the citizens. We **recommend** that the Ombudsman's office be provided with sufficient resources for exercising its role in accordance with its mandate.

Norway welcomes the adoption in 2010 of a legislative framework for the protection against discrimination. We **recommend** that the Government further strengthens efforts to implement the principles contained in the in the Law on Anti-Discrimination, including by combatting discrimination against members of the LGBT community.

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