

Universal Periodic Review of Montenegro – intervention by Poland

(Geneva, 28 January 2013)

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Montenegro for its comprehensive national report and participation in the UPR process.

The Polish delegation acknowledges the determination of the Government of Montenegro to cooperate with international community in the field of human rights. We take note of Montenegro's standing invitation for the UN special procedures. Poland also commends Montenegro's internal efforts to achieve a high standard of protection of human rights. In this context, we take note of the establishment of the office of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms (Ombudsman) and the adoption of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, which defines and prohibits direct and indirect discrimination.

At the same time, there are issues that give rise to questions, such as high rates of children subjected to sexual exploitation or abuse and cases of children engaged in harmful and exploitative labour, especially those belonging to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian minorities. In the light of the above, the delegation of Poland would like to recommend to Montenegro:

- to ensure sufficient resources enabling the Ombudsman to carry out its mandate effectively and independently;
- to adopt a new National Plan of Action for Children with a view to, *inter alia*, eradicating children's sexual exploitation;
- to effectively combat negative attitudes based on sex, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion and disability, especially to prevent discrimination against children of minority groups, refugee children and children with disabilities.

Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. JERZY BAURSKI