

Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other International Organizations

Geneva, 22 October 2013

2nd UPR cycle – Report of Nigeria

Statement by Ambassador to the UN HRC-Zorica Maric Djordjevic

Montenegro warmly welcomes (head of delegation) and the delegation of Nigeria.

Montenegro commends the accession of Nigeria to several human rights instruments and the activities of the Government of Nigeria towards signing and ratifying the United Nations human rights instruments and protocols to which it is not yet a party.

We share the concern of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions about recent executions that have undermined previous trends leading towards abolishing the death penalty, both in law and practice. Could you please elaborate on the intentions of the Government of Nigeria to reestablish the *de facto* moratorium on the use of death penalty? How has the Government of Nigeria implemented the CRC's recommendation on ensuring that neither the death penalty nor a life sentence be imposed for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age?

We appreciate the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Child Rights in the Nigerian Human Rights Commission and the adoption of adequate laws and policies to protect children against all forms of violence. What measures will be undertaken towards promoting and protecting the rights of children, including addressing the extremely high rate of early marriages among girls in the northern states?

Montenegro makes the following recommendations:

1. We call on Government to intensify its efforts, through legislation and practical measures, to promote and protect the rights of children against all forms of violence, including torture and trafficking,
2. We call on Government to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.