

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

Geneva, 30 January 2013

2nd UPR cycle – Report of Vanuatu

Statement by Montenegro

Montenegro warmly welcomes (head of delegation) and the Vanuatu's delegation.

We welcome your commitment to strengthening institutional framework for protection of human rights and commend that the Government of Vanuatu has introduced several significant law reforms in the previous period. However, we are concerned about a number of important UN conventions unsigned.

We have noticed that UNJP expressed its concern about minimum age of criminal responsibility (10 years) and age at which children could be taken into custody (16 years). Could you please elaborate on the intention of the Government of Vanuatu to raise the age of criminal responsibility?

According to the UNJP Vanuatu had one of the highest rates of incest amongst girls aged 15 years in the region. We would kindly ask the Delegation to elaborate if the Government of Vanuatu has taken concrete measures in order to prevent child, early and forced marriage.

Montenegro makes the following recommendations:

- We call on the Government to submit initial report to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- We call on the Government to become a party to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.