

**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other international organizations**

**Geneva, 30 April 2014**

**UPR 2 Cycle, Review of Bhutan**

**Statement by H.E. Zorica Maric Djordjevic- Ambassador of Montenegro to the UN HRC**

Montenegro warmly welcomes distinguished (head of delegation) and the Delegation of Bhutan.

Montenegro recognizes the efforts made by the authorities through a number of important pieces of legislation to improve the institutional and legislative framework for human rights. Montenegro encourages your Government to continue in its implementation.

However, we note that there are a large number of the international human rights treaties that Bhutan is not a party to. At the same time there is no extended standing invitation to special procedures. Has the Government of Bhutan initiated accession processes to any additional core documents (except CEDAW and CRC) or does it have any plans to improve its human rights policy in regard to cooperation with international human rights mechanisms?

As UNICEF reported, there is still the presence of harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, child labour and violence against women. Could you please elaborate on further steps to prevent domestic violence, especially violence against women?

Montenegro makes following recommendations to the Government of Bhutan:

- 1) to improve cooperation with the UN treaty bodies, including by incorporating and implementing international human rights law standards;
- 2) To extend a standing invitation to all UN Human Rights Council special procedures.

Thank you Mr. President