

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

**Geneva, 5 May 2014**

**UPR 2 Cycle, Review of Equatorial Guinea**

**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 Equatorial Guinea.

We note that according to the UN's 2013 Human Development Report, Equatorial Guinea has the highest GDP per-capita among all African countries and one of the highest in the world. Nevertheless, compared to the Human Development Index, the human rights situation on the ground is not satisfactory. In that regard we ask the delegation to elaborate on the main obstacles that prevent the Government to use the country's natural resource wealth for the development of society with equal opportunities for all its citizens?

Several UN treaty bodies, namely CEDAW and CESCR, expressed deep concern at the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes concerning the role of women, and of harmful practices such as forced and early marriages, and ~~levirate marriage~~. What kind of action has Equatorial Guinea taken to put in place a comprehensive strategy to eliminate such practices and stereotypes that reinforce discrimination against women?

Montenegro makes following recommendations to the Government of Equatorial Guinea:

- to establish an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing the death penalty,
- to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute.

Thank you!

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