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

***2nd UPR cycle – Report of Qatar***

***Geneva, 7 May 2014***

***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 Qatar.

We note with satisfaction recent developments achieved by the Government of Qatar in terms of institutional and legislative strengthening, in particular the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee in accordance with the Paris Principles. We welcome the progress achieved in undertaking legislative reforms aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, such as the adoption of the National Development Strategy, which seeks to promote women’s capacities and participation in political and economic life. As some treaty bodies expressed concern over the persistence of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual violence against domestic workers, we would like to ask the delegation of Qatar to elaborate on the plans to adopt specific legislation to criminalize all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape with no exemptions and within a clear timeframe.

Although there have been activities undertaken in the area of strengthening the juvenile justice system, CAT and CRC reiterated its serious concern that the minimum age of criminal responsibility was 7 years old. Does the Government of Qatar plan to accelerate the processing of legislative measures to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level and ensure the full implementation of juvenile justice standards?

Montenegro would like to make the following recommendations:

1. We call on the Government of Qatar to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
2. We call on the Government of Qatar to ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of Child