

PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

4 May 2015

Universal Periodic Review – 22<sup>nd</sup> Session – Belarus

Statement by Montenegro

Montenegro welcomes [head of delegation] and the delegation of Belarus.

We welcome the willingness demonstrated by the Belarus authorities to engage and cooperate with special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, Montenegro encourages Belarus to fully cooperate with the Special rapporteur for Belarus, including by granting him access into the country at the earliest.

It is encouraging that Belarus is committed to the gradual abolition of the death penalty and that the legislation of Belarus establishes more stringent restrictions on the use of this type of punishment. We encourage Belarus to join all other European countries in abolishing death sentences and executions.

We note with concern the continued lack of respect for the freedom of expression and assembly which often results in imposition of prosecution, arbitrary detention, arrest, restrictions and harassment of civic and political activists. Could the delegation of Belarus elaborate on the steps that the Government plans to take towards promoting the freedom of expression and assembly?

Montenegro makes following recommendations to the Government of Belarus:

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

Thank you.