

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

**Geneva, 5 May 2015**

**UPR 2 Cycle, Review of Malawi**

**Statement by Montenegro**

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

Montenegro commends the efforts made by the authorities to strengthen the institutional and legislative framework for human rights.

We welcome the adoption of the Gender Equality Act in February 2013 that has defined the term “discrimination against woman” and prohibited “harmful practices” that result in physical, sexual, emotional or psychological harm to any person. We hope that this act will be fully implemented and help the Government to effectively address the issue of gender equality.

However, we noted that the HR Committee was concerned about report on the prevalence of female genital mutilation and urged Malawi to explicitly criminalize that practice. We would like to ask the Government to elaborate on the activities undertaken to enforce existing legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation.

Montenegro commends the ratification of Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Montenegro makes following recommendations to the Government of Malawi:

1. to ratify to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,
2. to fully implement the adopted Gender Equality Act.

Thank you!