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

Geneva, 11 May 2015

UPR 2 Cycle, Review of Marshall Islands

Statement by Montenegro

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

We welcome the efforts of the Republic of Marshall Islands aimed at improving government's capacity as well as the normative framework to address human rights issues. We welcome the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act in 2011. However, domestic violence remained a challenge that was complicated by tradition, cultural practices and general perceptions and attitudes that abuse was normal in marriage. We would like to ask the delegation of Marshall Islands to elaborate on the activities undertaken to fully implement mentioned act? Does the Government of Marshall Islands intend to consider defining 18 years as legal age of marriage for girls, irrespective of parental or custodial consent, in order to make it consistent with existing provisions for boys?

Montenegro noted that there are a significant number of the international human rights treaties and their optional protocols which Marshall Islands is not a party to (ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD, CAT, CRPD, CPED). Could the delegation of Marshall Islands inform if the Government has initiated accession procedure or has a plan to ratify any of the abovementioned treaties?

UNCT noted that the legal framework for child protection was weak and programmes and services lacked strategic direction. What measures has the Government of Marshall Islands undertaken to strengthen the normative framework and integrate child protection laws and a comprehensive child protection policy into existing mechanisms, such as the Central Adoption Agency.

Montenegro makes following recommendations to the Government of Marshall Islands:

1. to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
2. to ratify Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

Thank you!