

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

Geneva, 26 January 2016

### Review of Latvia

#### Statement by Montenegro

Montenegro warmly welcomes distinguished delegation of Latvia. We appreciate the commitment of Latvia to the promotion and protection of human rights, including through its active engagement as a member of the Human Rights Council.

Montenegro welcomes the the adoption of the Guidelines on the Development of Education in Latvia 2014-2020. We particularly commend the progress achieved in the protection of the rights of women, especially when it comes to women's involvement in decision-making and economy. We also note with appreciation the establishment of the e-governance platform of public initiatives where each citizen of Latvia aged above 16 years may propose legislation initiatives.

While recognizing enormous challenges Latvia faces as a state with the second highest multilingualism indicator in the EU, we have noted concerns of several treaty bodies with regards to protection of national minorities. Could the delegation elaborate on the results achieved so far in implementing the Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy 2012-2018, with a view to step up the social inclusion of national and linguistic minorities?

Montenegro would like to offer the following recommendations to the Government of Latvia:

1. To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT)
2. To ratify the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICPPED).