

Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office and other  
International Organizations in Geneva

2<sup>nd</sup> UPR Cycles, UPR Review of Sierra Leone

27<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016

Montenegro warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Sierra Leone. We commend the engagement of Sierra Leone as a member of the Human Rights Council over the previous three years.

Montenegro acknowledges a significant progress made by the Government between two UPR cycles despite the challenges arising from the unprecedented Ebola virus outbreak. We commend the adoption of the Agenda for prosperity, being the third strategic document on poverty reduction, with a focus on education, health and good governance. We also welcome the adoption of the National Child Welfare Policy aiming to provide the vision to guide the strengthening of child protection system.

Montenegro notes the concerns of the CEDAW Committee about the increase in sexual abuse and harassment of girls in schools and the increase in teenage pregnancies. We would appreciate if the delegation could elaborate on the actions that the Government plans to undertake to combat and criminalize the harmful practice of female genital mutilation, bearing in mind its negative impact on women's physical and mental health.

We encourage the Government to make a good use of the current Constitution review process to further strengthen its legislative framework for the human rights protection. Montenegro offers the following recommendations to Sierra Leone:

1. To ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
2. To ratify the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.