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

**Geneva, 14 November 2023**

**UPR Fourth Cycle, Review of Azerbaijan**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan and the constructive engagement with the UPR process.

We note the activities of Azerbaijan’s authorities to advance the protection and promotion of human rights in-between two UPR cycles. In particular we welcome efforts to implement decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, along with the commitment to adapt the legislation and institutional setting in the field of human rights to the Council of Europe’s standards.

Montenegro recommends to Azerbaijan:

1. To strengthen the institutional independence of the Office of the Commissioner and ensure that it carries out its mandate in full compliance with Paris Principles;
2. To strengthen its efforts to resolve the remaining statelessness cases, including by developing and adopting a legislative framework for a statelessness determination procedure;
3. To repeal any legal provisions that unduly restrict the activities of non-governmental organizations, including in relation to their registration and access to grants.

We wish Azerbaijan a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.