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

**Statement by Montenegro**

**UPR 4th Cycle – Review of Burkina Faso**

**Geneva, 6 November 2023**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Burkina Faso.

Montenegro appreciates Burkina Faso’s strengthened cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies.

We welcome the establishment of the OHCHR presence in the country and encourage the continued Government’s collaborative engagement with the UN country team.

Montenegro recognizes the Government's normative, institutional, and project activities in a number of areas related to the employment and empowerment of women and young people, combating gender-based violence, and right to education without discrimination.

While welcoming the above-mentioned actions, we also note with concern the suspension of the activities of political parties and civil society organizations, following the coup of 30 September 2022. We encourage the competent authorities to intensify efforts to ensure that all citizens enjoy fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life.

Montenegro recommends to Burkina Faso:

1. To abolish restrictions on media and civic space and take measures to enable the full enjoyment of freedom of expression, assembly and association
2. To bring its legal and regulatory framework on combating trafficking in persons into line with international standards,
3. To repeal all legal discriminatory provisions against women and raise the minimum age for marriage to 18, without exception;

Montenegro wishes Burkina Faso a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.