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

**44th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Universal Periodic Review of Cameroon**

**Statement of Montenegro**

Geneva, 14 November

Thank you, Mr. President.

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished Delegation of Cameroon, and thanks for the National Report.

Montenegro recognizes steps undertaken by Cameroon to strengthen the national framework for human rights protection. In that regard, we welcome the further implementation of the National Child Protection Policy, as well as the adoption of policies aimed at addressing child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and gender-based violence.

Having said that, we also note with serious concern the reports of threats and reprisals against journalists, human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations. The fact that homosexuality is still criminalized, along with widespread discrimination against members of the LGBTQI community, is also very worrying.

We recommend that Cameroon:

1. To carry out effective, thorough and impartial investigations into all reported cases of killings, enforced disappearance, intimidation and harassment of, and threats and reprisals against, human rights defenders, journalists and members of civil society organizations, while ensuring that perpetrators of those acts are brought to justice;
2. To take immediate steps to provide effective medical and social support for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence;
3. To repeal all legal provisions, including in the Civil Code, that discriminated against women or barred women from certain types of jobs;

Montenegro wishes Cameroon a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.

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