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

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

**Universal Periodic Review of Columbia**

**Statement of Montenegro**

**Geneva, 7 November 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Montenegro recognizes Columbia’s efforts to advance the human rights protection. We welcome the activities aiming at the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy for 2014-2034.

We also recognize the peacebuilding measures within the “Total Peace” policy and the adoption of legislation for the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict, as well as the effective operationalization of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition.

However, we note with concern reports of persistent cases of violence, threats, reprisals, attacks and killings of human rights defenders, as well as the lacking of legislative and policy measures to tackle intersectional discrimination faced by women belonging to vulnerable groups.

We recommend to Columbia:

1. To take measures to address gender-based violence and discrimination, especially against women belonging to vulnerable groups, such as lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.
2. To further strengthen the legislative and policy framework for human rights protection, including by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.
3. To further increase the efforts in combatting human trafficking, including by developing protocols for the care of victims of trafficking, with special emphasis on the women and children.

We wish Columbia a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.

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