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

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

**Universal Periodic Review of Cuba**

**Statement of Montenegro**

**Geneva, 15 November 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Montenegro welcomes the adoption of the new Constitution of Cuba in 2019 and the inclusion of the category of human rights in the Constitution for the first time. We also commend the prohibition of any discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity and the promotion of gender equality under the new Constitution, and the efforts of Cuba to guarantee rights in this area.

While noting Cuba's progress on a number of issues, we also note with concern reports of coercive practices during interrogations, including incommunicado detention following the 2021 protests, particularly of children.

We recommend to Cuba:

1. To establish protocols regulating the conduct of law enforcement officials during social protests, in conformity with international standards;
2. To introduce the necessary legislative amendments to remove the jurisdiction of the military courts over civilians;
3. To take effective and affirmative measures to ensure the employment of persons with disabilities, particularly women, in the public and private sectors;

We wish Cuba a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.

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