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

**Geneva, 8 November 2023**

**UPR Fourth Cycle, Review of Uzbekistan**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Uzbekistan.

We note activities of the authorities of Uzbekistan since the last UPR cycle to strengthen the institutional architecture and normative framework for protection and promotion of human rights.

We took note of the structural efforts undertaken in the domain of the rights of women and gender equality, in particular the establishment of the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family and adoption of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality for the period until 2030 and the National programme to increase women’s activism in all spheres of economic, political and social life for the period from 2022 to 2026.

We welcome the measures on improving the protection of children’s rights by forming the Children’s Rights Ombudsman’s Office and the National Commission on Children and regional commissions.

Montenegro recommends to Uzbekistan:

1. To conduct effective, independent and impartial investigations of all cases of trafficking in women and girls, and ensure that victims of trafficking have adequate access to support services;
2. To strengthen the anti-torture mechanism under the national human rights institution, in particular its transparency and independence;
3. To repeal the article 120 of the Criminal Code referring to the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting male adults.

We wish Uzbekistan a successful UPR review.

I thank you.