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

**45th Session of the UPR Working Group - Review of Congo**

**Statement by Montenegro**

**Geneva, 30 January 2024**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Congo and its constructive engagement with the UPR process.

We recognize the country’s efforts in advancing the human rights institutional and normative setting since the previous cycle. Particularly laudable are activities in combating violence against women and their reintegration into society. We call upon Congo’s authorities to continue with efforts towards improving the overall socio-economic position of women in a society by, foremost, expediating the finalization and adoption of the bill on parity. We also encourage Congo to strengthen professional training for women and consider providing incentives for their employment.

Montenegro recommends to Congo:

1. To revise the minimum age for marriage and ensure that a child under 16 could not be married, even with the approval of a judge;
2. To redouble efforts to ensure the availability of inclusive education, particularly to indigenous children;
3. To effectively investigate, prosecute and adequately sanction perpetrators of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls.

We wish Congo a successful UPR cycle.

Thank you.