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

**Statement by Montenegro**

**UPR 4th Cycle – Review of Vanuatu**

**Geneva, 2 May 2024**

Montenegro welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu.

Montenegro acknowledges Vanuatu’s continued efforts to strengthen human rights track record in the country, including through the introduction of new laws, strategies and mechanisms to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups.

We also commend the adoption and revision of the national climate change and disaster policies incorporating human rights issues.

In the area of child protection, we welcome the establishment of the 24-hour help-line, child desk offices in all provinces as well as implementation of acts prohibiting corporal punishment. We noted concerns of the UNCT regarding the child labor and schools drop-out, and we urge the Government to amend legislation to eliminate child labor.

Montenegro recommends to the Government of Vanuatu:

- To continue cooperation with the OHCHR and the UNCT and to seek technical assistance for improving its engagement with the human rights mechanisms;

- To intensify efforts to establish the National Human Rights Institution.

Montenegro wishes Vanuatu a successful UPR cycle.

Thank you.