**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other International Organizations**

**STATEMENT BY MONTENEGRO**

**3rd UPR cycle – Review of Australia**

**Geneva, 20 January 2021**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Australia. We value Australia’s engagement in advancing protection and promotion of human rights across its entire territory. We particularly acknowledge legalization of the same-sex marriages as well as the ratification of the OPCAT. We also encourage implementation of programs such as Closing the Gap Strategy to continue improving social, cultural, and economic rights of indigenous peoples.

Montenegro reiterates its call to the Government of Australia to consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Montenegro would like to make the following recommendations to Australia:

1) To ensure that all children with disabilities had access to inclusive education in mainstream schools.

2) To prioritize family reunification for all asylum seekers.

We wish Australia a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.