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

**STATEMENT BY MONTENEGRO**

**3rd UPR cycle – Review of Nepal**

**Geneva, 21 January 2021**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Nepal.

We acknowledge the country’s constructive engagement with the special procedures and the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in advancing protection and promotion of human rights nationally. To that end, we reiterate our call to Nepal to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

While we note actions that have been taken in addressing different forms of harmful practices, we call on the Government to put an end to such phenomenon. Montenegro encourages Nepal to operationalize its strategy to end child marriage by 2030, and raise awareness about the legal prohibition of child marriage.

Montenegro recommends to Nepal:

1) To strengthen its efforts to put an end to torture and ill-treatment of children in all settings.

2) To intensify its efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, slavery, sexual exploitation and forced labour.

We wish Nepal a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.