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

**Statement by Montenegro**

**UPR 3rd Cycle - Review of Seychelles**

**Geneva, 10 May 2021**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Seychelles.

We recognize the Government's efforts to strengthen the normative and institutional framework of human rights. In this regard, we particularly welcome the progress made by Seychelles in ratifying and acceding to international instruments, as well as the issuance of a standing invitation to the HRC's special procedures mechanisms.

[While we also welcome the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in 2018 and its separation from the Ombudsman, we call on the Government to ensure the Commission's full compliance with the Paris Principles and to allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to it.]

Montenegro commends Seychelles for its efforts to counter gender-based violence but also notes concerns of the UN mechanisms about the incidence of gender-based violence in the country, which remains among the highest in the region. We urge the Government to invest additional efforts to address this issue more effectively.

Montenegro acknowledges the adoption of the amended Children Act 2020 that explicitly prohibits all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, as well as the intention of the Government to conduct legal reforms to enhance the legal protection afforded to children.

Montenegro recommends to Seychelles:

1. To adopt the legal provisions specifically prohibiting torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
2. To adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law and to ensure adequate and effective protection against discrimination on any ground.

We wish the delegation of Seychelles a successful UPR cycle.

Thank you!