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

**Statement by Montenegro**

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

**Geneva, 8 November 2021**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Eswatini.

Montenegro recognizes Eswatini's efforts to develop policies and legislative framework to better protect and promote human rights in the country.

Montenegro welcomes the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee that will serve as a national reporting and monitoring mechanism, and encourage Eswatini to further commit to ratifying international human rights treaties and to submit overdue reports to treaty bodies.

We commend the significant developments of Eswatini to combat HIV-related stigma and discrimination and encourage the country to continue effectively tackling all concerns related to this issue. While welcoming achievements of Eswatini to meet near-universal net enrolment in primary education, we note with concern the high rates of adolescents that are excluded from secondary education. To that end, we recall the recommendations of the relevant UN institutions to Eswatini to continue improving the functioning of the education system, especially with regard to free and compulsory education.

While welcoming the moratorium on the death penalty and the intention of Eswatini to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, we reiterate our call to Eswatini to do so.

Montenegro recommends to Eswatini:

* To issue a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders;
* To provide the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration with sufficient independence and human and financial resources to fulfil its mandate, and establish an effective complaints mechanism with reparation to victims.

We wish Eswatini a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.