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

**Statement by Montenegro**

**3rd UPR cycle – Review of the Republic of Moldova**

**Geneva, 28 January 2022**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Moldova.

Montenegro commends Moldova for its continued cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, based on the standing invitation. We also welcome the continued engagement with the OHCHR, including the extension of the Office’s presence in the country and voluntary national contributions to the Office.

Montenegro notes with appreciation that, since the last review, Moldova has acceded to or signed several international human rights instruments, and ratified the Istanbul Convention. It has also strengthened the legal institutional framework to better respect human rights. Along those lines, we welcome the establishment of the People’s Advocate Office (the Ombudsman), which is accredited with A status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. Also, the establishment of the Equality Council.

Notwithstanding the positive developments in tackling discrimination, we note with concern the findings of relevant UN bodies on the high prevalence of gender-based violence against women, including domestic, economic and psychosocial violence.

Montenegro recommends to Moldova:

1. To strengthen anti-discrimination legislation to ensure the prohibition of all direct, indirect, and multiple forms of discrimination on all grounds, as well as effective remedies for victims of discrimination;
2. To strengthen the capacities of law enforcement officials in dealing with cases of gender-based violence and applying the national legislation on violence against women.

We wish the Republic of Moldova a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.