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

**Statement by Montenegro**

**3rd UPR cycle – Review of the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Geneva, 24 January 2022**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic and the country’s engagement in the UPR process.

We reiterate our staunch support to the UN Special Envoy for Syria in his persistent efforts to engage all parties and advance a political solution [as mandated by the SCR 2254 (2015), and the Geneva political process]. We also firmly endorse that any final resolution includes accountability for the most serious crimes.

Montenegro remains gravely concerned about the devastating impact of over 10 years of armed conflict on the civilian population and the dire humanitarian situation on the ground, exacerbated by the economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. It is particularly alarming that humanitarian aid is being instrumentalized as a warfare method, that countless people are subjected to arbitrary detention, torture, abduction, and enforced disappearance, that children are recruited and used in hostilities, as well as sexual and gender-based violence against women, girls, men, and boys.

Montenegro recommends to the Syrian Arab Republic:

1. To ensure rapid, safe, unimpeded, unconditional and sustained access to life-saving humanitarian and medical relief across the whole country;
2. To investigate cases of torture and summary executions and hold perpetrators to account;

We wish the Syrian Arab Republic a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.