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

**Statement by Montenegro**

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

**Geneva, 26 January 2022**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Zimbabwe.

We recognize the country’s efforts to implement human rights treaties.

With regard to the national human rights framework, we note the concerns of the UN bodies on the slow pace of legislative alignment with the Constitution and international human rights obligations. Also due to the lack of certain legislation such as a specific gender equality law that would cover all prohibited grounds of discrimination. This is especially, given the underreporting and low rate of prosecutions in cases of gender and sexual violence against women and girls. We call on the Government to take measures to raise awareness on this issue and ensure that all perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished.

Montenegro reiterates its call on the Government to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Montenegro recommends to Zimbabwe:

1. To ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
2. To ensure that the laws governing the right to freedom of peaceful assembly are fully in line with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

We wish Zimbabwe a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.