**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 43rd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Montenegro**

**8 May 2023**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia acknowledges Montenegro’s efforts since its last UPR appearance to provide stronger legal protections to journalists and the introduction of the [*Law on Same-Sex Life Partnership*](https://perma.cc/4FRU-JJ99)*s*.

Australia is concerned by ongoing delays in the drafting of human rights legislation and problems in the implementation and monitoring of existing legislation. We encourage Montenegro to implement such legislation in full.

Australia recommends **Montenegro**:

1. **Continue to tackle corruption in all institutions through coordinated investigations and prosecutions.**
2. **Implement all measures in the 2021-2025 National Strategy for Gender Equality and the 2021-22 Action Plan.**
3. **Implement policies to end corruption and political influence on the judiciary and ensure the independence of this institution.**

**[114 words]**