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

**UPR 4 Cycle - Review of Tonga**

**Statement by Montenegro**

**Geneva, 1 May 2023**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished Delegation of Tonga and its commitment to the UPR process.

Montenegro welcomes the steps taken by Tonga to strengthen the legislative framework, policies and institutions for the protection of vulnerable groups, including children, women and the elderly. Montenegro further notes Tonga's commitment to observe international human rights standards and to strengthen its engagement with UN human rights mechanisms. In this regard, we welcome the ratification of the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention and the UN Convention against Corruption, in 2020.

Still, we encourage Tonga to further strengthen efforts towards the ratification of some of the other key international human rights treaties such as ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, [CEDAW and CRPD]. We also encourage Tonga to continue its efforts to bring existing legislation fully into line with international human rights standards to address some of the outstanding challenges. They include the effective protection of children from violence and abuse, as well as the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination.

Montenegro recommends to Tonga:

1. To ratify the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
2. To take steps towards drafting and adopting a comprehensive child rights law with a budgeted implementation plan;
3. [To repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against women.]

Montenegro wishes the Delegation of Tonga every success in the UPR cycle.

I thank you.