**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Geneva, 2 May 2023**

**UPR 4th Cycle –****Mali**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Mali and thanks them for the engagement in the UPR process.

Montenegro notes initial steps taken by the Government to establish transitional justice through the adoption of a national policy and related action plan and measures to combat impunity, with the aim of enabling the national reconciliation and peace.

However, we remain concerned with the reported cases of violations of civil and political rights, the shrinking civil space and pressure on freedom of expression, including attacks on human rights defenders.

Montenegro recommends to Mali:

* To grant access to the special procedure mandate holders who requested to visit the country;
* To hold perpetrations of violations and abuses of human rights accountable, including conflict- related gender-based violence, in line with recommendations accepted during 2018 UPR review;
* To finalize the revision of the draft child protection law, criminalizing the use of children in armed-conflict purposes ;

Montenegro wishes Mali a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.