**PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Geneva, May 4, 2023**

**UPR– 4th Cycle - Burundi**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Burundi.

Montenegro notes initial steps taken by the government to strengthen legal and institutional framework, including voting of the new Constitution and the renewal of the mandates of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

(However, we remain concerned over the serious shrinking of the civic space and the reported cases of abuses and violations of human rights, including torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances. We call on the government to conduct impartial investigations and bring perpetrators of the alleged crimes to justice.)

Montenegro recommends to Burundi:

* to cooperate fully with the established UN human rights mechanisms, including the SR on the situation of the human rights in Burundi;
* to expedite the legislative review process to effectively establish the national mechanism for the prevention of torture;
* to provide a safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders, journalists, and other media workers to conduct their work independently;

We wish Burundi a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you.