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

**UPR 4 Cycle - Review of Israel**

**Statement by Montenegro**

**Geneva, 9 May 2023**

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

Montenegro commends Israel for further efforts in strengthening the legal framework, policies and institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

We further positively note Israel's commitment to advocate for the promotion of the rights of the most vulnerable groups in multilateral fora, particularly the rights of persons with disabilities, pushing for mainstreaming their inclusion and accessibility, as well as the rights and agency of children, the rights of elderly, the rights of women and girls and the promotion of substantive gender equality.

Moreover, we welcome the continuous attention Israel devotes to its engagement in preventing and combating sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment throughout the UN organizations, agencies and programs.

Montenegro recommends to Israel:

1. To adopt a national action plan to prevent and counter sexual violence against children, including a whole-of-government framework;
2. To amend anti-discrimination laws to ensure equal treatment and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

We wish delegation of Israel a successful UPR cycle.

Thank you.