**Universal Periodic Review of Montenegro**

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Republic of Moldova warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Montenegro to the UPR Working Group and we express appreciation for the presentation of the national report.

We commend Montenegro for the significant progress achieved since the last review in elaborating and adopting relevant legislation with a view to further enhance the protection of human rights. We welcome in particular the improvement of the legislative framework against discrimination, gender equality, protection of persons with disabilities, children and other vulnerable groups. We also positively note the measures taken by the Government with regard to the Strategy on Migration and Reintegration of Returnees in Montenegro.

With a view to further consolidate the progress in the protection and promotion of human right we recommend Montenegro the following:

1. To strengthen legislation referring to prevention and protection of children against sale and sexual exploitation as well as effective investigation and prosecution of such cases.
2. To ensure effective implementation of the legislation on protection of journalists and civil society, and thoroughly investigate cases of violence and attacks against media representatives.

Thank you.