

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR 43 – Montenegro** ***Belgian intervention***8 May 2023 |

President,

Belgium welcomes the efforts and positive steps made by Montenegro since its previous UPR. Notwithstanding these efforts, important challenges remain, in particular regarding women’s rights and gender-based violence, the fight against torture or ill-treatment and birth registration.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Montenegro to:

**R1.** Ensure that children’s nationality status is determined as soon as possible after birth in order to ensure that otherwise stateless children born in Montenegro acquire a nationality.

**R2.** Ensure that suspected perpetrators of torture are immediately suspended from official duties and for the duration of the investigation.

**R3.** Amend legislation to criminalize marital rape and establish adequate punishment for perpetrators and redress for victims of gender-based violence.

Thank you, President