

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

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**UPR 29 – Montenegro**

**22 January 2018**

**Delivered by Mr. Massimo Baldassarre, First Secretary**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished members of the delegation of Montenegro and we thank them for their national report and today’s presentation.

Italy welcomes Montenegro’s commitment to the UPR and its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We particularly commend Montenegro’s engagement to fight domestic violence, violence against women and children as well as the attention paid to the fight against human trafficking also thanks to the launch of a specific strategy for the period 2012-2018.

We also appreciate Montenegro’s efforts in the field of human rights education and training and the results achieved in the fight to discrimination thanks to an improved legal framework as well as to the implementation of media campaigns aimed at increasing tolerance towards vulnerable groups.

Mr. President,

Italy would like to seize this opportunity to offer Montenegro the following recommendations:

* *Fully implement the reforms in the judicial sector in order to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.*
* *Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and ensure that women victims of violence receive appropriate help and perpetrators are brought to justice.*

We wish Montenegro a successful review.

I thank you.