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

**Geneva, 15 January 2018**

**UPR 3 Cycle, Review of Tonga**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

Montenegro commends the progress achieved at the national level in terms of improvement of consultation process and better understanding of the UPR mechanism.

We also welcome positive steps undertaken in the field of legislative framework for social and child protection and education, such as the increase of compulsory school age, introduction of principles of inclusive education, adoption of the national policy on disability and the new family law. We encourage the Government to improve its effective implementation.

However, we still noted a very low level of acceptance of the key international human rights documents. While we recognize the Government’s initial efforts to consider becoming a party to several UN core human rights treaties, we encourage the state authorities to significantly improve its cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, in particular in terms of regular reporting on already accepted treaties.

Montenegro makes following recommendations:

1. to submit the initial report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the child,
2. to enact a new legislation or amend existing laws with a view to decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults.

Thank you!