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**UPR29 – Montenegro**

**Statement by Slovakia**

22 January 2018

Mr. President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Montenegro and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

Montenegro has made a significant progress in both monitoring and implementing human rights since its last review. Slovakia praises Montenegro for taking a number of positive steps to address human rights related issues and to improve further its human rights legislative framework, including ratification of human rights instruments such as the Optional Protocol to the CRC on communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

We also recognize legal reforms related to the establishment of a comprehensive anti-discriminatory framework.

We value the progress of Montenegro made in strengthening the independence, impartiality and efficiency of its judiciary. Taking this positive development into account, we recommend that Montenegro make further efforts to investigate all reported threats and attacks against journalists and media workers thus contributing to the promotion of the freedom of expression.

Slovakia recognizes efforts and achievements of Montenegro in addressing child-related needs. We recommend that Montenegro continue improving the promotion and protection of children’s rights, including through strengthening the Council on Child Rights.

We also note with appreciation the positive steps taken to improve the rights of persons with disabilities. By the same token, we recommend that Montenegro continue its efforts to adopt comprehensive accessibility strategy in order to promote further their full integration into society and back it with adequate resources.

We wish Montenegro a successful review.

I thank you.