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**Universal Periodic Review**

**29th**

**Session**

**(15 – 26 January 2018)**

**Albania Intervention on the Third Cycle of the UPR of Montenegro**

**Geneva, 22nd of January 2018**

**-Check against delivery-**

Mr. President,

Albania warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Montenegro, headed by Vice-Prime Minister, Mr. Pazin, for their comprehensive national report and its presentation today.

We commend the steps taken in strengthening the legal and institutional framework to promote and protect human rights, and the progress in the implementation of the second UPR cycle recommendations.

Albania applauds the commitments on the implementation of the Strategy on Minority Policy (2008-2018) and the Strategy for the Fight Against Human Trafficking (2012-2018). We welcome the efforts to ensure the gender equality and fight against domestic violence by taking into account the obligations arising from CEDAW Convention and Istanbul Convention.

While praising Montenegro for the amendment on the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms on 2017, we would like to know more on the reform related to the Fund for Minorities to ensure the fund for promoting minority rights.

Albania would like to make the following recommendations:

* To continue awareness-raising and education against gender based violence;
* To strengthen the efforts on the implementation of the strategy on minority policy and to provide the funds for promoting minority rights, especially for the preservation and development of culture, education and information in their languages.

In conclusion, Albania would like to wish to the delegation of Montenegro a very successful review during this cycle.

Thank you,