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

**Geneva, 9 November 2018**

**UPR 3 Cycle, Review of the Central African Republic**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Central African Republic and thanks for the presentation of the report.

My delegation welcomes the signs of political progress in the country, in particular the adoption of the new Constitution, as well as enhancement of cooperation between national institutions. We noted the efforts towards establishing institutional and normative framework for human rights.

Despite these positive steps, we noted concerns of the CEDAW Committee about the large and increasing number of all forms of sexual violence against women perpetrated by armed combatants and civilians, as well as the forced recruitment of women and girls, perpetrated by armed groups. We call on the Government to investigate, prosecute and punish all cases of violence against women, as well as to ensure their access to medical treatment, psychosocial support and adequate compensation.

Montenegro recommends:

1. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;
2. to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.

Thank you.