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

**Geneva, November 12 2018**

**UPR 3 Cycle, Review of Belize**

**Statement by Montenegro**

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

We noted all efforts of the Government of Belize aimed to improving institutional and normative human rights framework. We commend the Government for ratifying several international human rights instruments, in particular International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Optional Protocol to CAT. We welcome the efforts undertaken to address the issue of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials and to ensure greater accountability where there were allegations of misconduct.

Although we commend the Government for undertaking activities in addressing violence against women, this still remains to be an issue. Therefore, we call on the Government to develop specific programs for addressing all forms of violence, in particular against women and children. In addition, we urge the Government to address the lack of an explicit constitutional guarantee of the right to education.

Montenegro recognizes areas where it is necessary to intensify activities and makes following recommendations:

1. to extend an open invitation to the special procedure mandate holders;
2. to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings through enacting legislation;

Thank you!