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

**Geneva, 14 November 2018**

**UPR 3 Cycle, Review of the Republic of Congo**

**Statement by Montenegro**

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

We recognize developments concerning the normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. We particularly welcome the promulgation of the new Constitution which guarantees the right to education and equal access to education and training without discrimination and also establishes the equality of women and men before the law.

We noted that the Committee against Torture was deeply concerned about the numerous allegations of acts of torture and ill-treatment committed in the country’s places of detention and we urge the Government of the Republic of Congo to take effective measures to investigate all acts of torture, prosecute and punish those responsible and to work decisively on a prevention of such acts.

Montenegro makes following recommendations:

1. to speeding up the process of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
2. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Thank you.