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

**Geneva, 21 January 2018**

**UPR 3rd Cycle, Review of New Zealand**

**Statement by Montenegro**

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

We welcome the efforts undertaken by the Government of New Zealand and progress achieved in the field of human rights, , particularly adoption of the Human Rights Act and establishing of the International Human Rights Governance Group in 2017.

The CEDAW was concerned with high level of gender-based violence against women, as well as the very low levels of reporting and the high rate of recidivism, particularly within the Maori community, and the absence of a national action plan or comprehensive strategy for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, and we urge the Government to take necessary actions.

Montenegro makes the following recommendations:

1. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;
2. increasing the age of criminal responsibility;

We wish to the distinguished delegation of New Zealand a successful outcome of this UPR cycle.

I thank you!