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

**Geneva, 21 January 2019**

**UPR 3rd Cycle, Review of Afghanistan**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Afghanistan.

We noted the efforts for improving the overall legislative framework, in particular amending the Penal Code with regard to crimes of violence against women. However, we noted concerns of several treaty bodies over the high prevalence of all forms of violence against women, crimes committed in the name of “honour” and cases of stoning. In this regard, we encourage the Government to intensify efforts to fully implement the national strategy and action plan on the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

Although significant steps were undertaken to implement the action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, we call on the Government to strengthen its measures for ensuring accountability for those recruiting or using children.

Montenegro recommends:

1. To ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to the abolition of the death penalty;
2. To explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.

Thank you.