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

**Geneva, 24 January 2019**

**UPR 3rd Cycle, Review of the Republic of Macedonia**

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro warmly welcomes (head of delegation) and the Government’s delegation. We would like to thank them for the presentation of its national report, as well as for the Government’s commitment to the UPR process.

We commend the efforts of the Government undertaken towards adoption of the constitutional amendments, thus fulfilling its obligations arising from the Prespa Agreement signed in last June. We hope for the successful implementation of the Agreement by all parties, which will be conducive to creating a favorable environment for the further overall development of the Region.

Montenegro welcomes the adoption of the Strategy for Reform of the Justice System 2017-2022 and its Action Plan, as well as the efforts undertaken to guarantee and protect the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary. We encourage the Government to continue the implementation of the planned reform activities which will ensure all preconditions required for an independent, impartial, efficient, quality and transparent justice system.

We recognize the efforts made in advancing human rights situation, in particular women’s rights. In this regard, we welcome the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, as well as the adoption of the Action Plan for its Implementation for the period 2018-2023. which envisages adoption of the Law against gender-based violence.

Montenegro makes following recommendations:

1. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
2. to intensify efforts to strengthen legislative framework against gender-based violence, including the adoption of a definition of gender-based violence and incrimination of all forms of gender-based violence;

Thank you.