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

**Geneva, 29 January 2019**

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

**Statement by Montenegro**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Cyprus and the participative approach in the preparation of national report.

We commend Cyprus for the efforts undertaken in improving national framework for promotion and protection of human rights, especially rights of the child, women and girls, protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. As regards women’s rights, we welcome the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, as well as the capacity-building activities and awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and combat violence against women. We encourage the Government to intensify efforts to adopt comprehensive bill aiming to fully integrate the provisions of the Istanbul Convention into domestic legislation, including criminalizing all forms of violence against women.

Montenegro pays particular attention to the rights of the child. In this regard, we welcome the improvement of the overall framework for protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Montenegro recommends the Government of Cyprus:

1. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
2. to ratify International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Thank you.