**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other International Organizations**

**STATEMENT BY MONTENEGRO**

**3rd UPR cycle – Review of Belarus**

**Geneva, 3 November 2020**

Montenegro values Belarus' reporting to the UPR mechanism. We note the country’s interaction with the UN human rights system, including treaty bodies and certain thematic special procedures of the HRC. We reiterate our call to Belarus to provide the SR on the human rights situation in Belarus with full and unhindered access to its territory, including all places of detention.

We remain concerned with this year’s decision of Belarus to pass two more death sentences, and reiterate the importance of abolishing the capital punishment in all circumstances, also by considering the ratification of the 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Montenegro expresses serious concern with the reported cases of suppression of peaceful protests, intimidation and an excessive use of force, in particular against the opposition, human right defenders, civil society representatives, journalists and other media workers seeking to peacefully exercise their civil and political rights (that are related to the August 9 elections).

Montenegro would like to put forward the following recommendations to Belarus:

1. To issue a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders.
2. To duly conduct prompt, impartial, and full investigation of the alleged practice of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, including the detention of minors, and to prosecute the alleged perpetrators.

I thank you.