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

**Statement by Montenegro**

**3rd UPR 3 Cycle - Review of Maldives**

**Geneva, 4 November 2020**

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Maldives.

We acknowledge the efforts of the new administration in advancing the human rights agenda. The Maldives’ decision to re-engage with the UN system, including by reaffirming its standing invitation to all special procedures’ mandate holders to visit the country, is greatly valued. As is the renewed interaction with the treaty bodies.

Against this background, Montenegro reiterates its call to the Maldives to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

Montenegro also remains concerned with the findings of the relevant UN mechanisms on the still high level of violence against women. To combat such phenomena, the Government is called upon to continue its reforms to provide an effective framework for addressing gender equality and violence against women and the effective implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. The Government is also called upon to combat trafficking more effectively and to improve the implementation of policies that will halt harmful practices against children.

Montenegro recommends to Maldives:

1. To ratify the core human rights instruments to which the Maldives is not yet the party
2. To ensure that all children enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child without discrimination, inter alia, by amending the relevant legislation.

Thank you.