

29th session of the Universal Periodic Review

15-24 January 2018

Review of Montenegro

Statement by Ireland

Thank you, Mr President.

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Montenegro and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland welcomes the efforts made by Montenegro on the recommendations accepted in its 2013 UPR. We would like to specifically commend Montenegro's ratification of multiple protocols and conventions in the human rights domain.

The steps taken to strengthen the impartiality of the judicial system are to be welcomed, and we would echo the Council of Europe's call for Montenegro to continue and fine-tune its progress in this regard.

We note positively the various steps taken to combat domestic violence, particularly Montenegro's new Strategy for Domestic Violence Protection 2016-2020. We **recommend** that Montenegro enhance support services for domestic-violence victims.

We welcome Montenegro's introduction of legislative and administrative measures aimed at protecting the rights of LGBTI individuals. We call on Montenegro to ensure any acts of violence against the community are promptly investigated and to promote awareness-raising initiatives and educational activities to combat discrimination.

We also welcome the Montenegrin efforts to address discrimination against minorities. However, certain minority groups continue to suffer from discrimination. We therefore **recommend** strengthening the function of the Minority Councils designed to represent ethnic minorities, and conducting information campaigns in the public domain to combat intolerance.

Regarding freedom of press, we acknowledge the progress made and the challenges faced by Montenegro. We encourage Montenegro to work on achieving full conformity with ECHR practice in the area of press freedom

We wish Montenegro every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.