

**First Conference of the States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of
all from Enforced Disappearance, Geneva, 19 December 2016**

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Excellences,
Co-chairs,

Montenegro welcomes convening of today's First Conference of the States parties of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Montenegro had ratified the Convention in 2011, and by doing that Montenegro joined the group of countries committed to implementing the Convention through their national legislation and taking all necessary measures to prevent and punish enforced disappearances. In accordance with article 3 of the Law on Ratification of the Convention, Montenegro recognized the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation by Montenegro of provisions of this Convention; pursuant to the provisions of article 32, Montenegro also recognized the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications in which a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. Montenegro had confirmed that widespread or systematic commission of enforced disappearances constituted a crime against humanity according to international law.

Montenegro presented its initial report in September 2015 and, recently, the Government has submitted the first follow-up information on the implementation of concluding observation.

Montenegro welcomes the fact that, so far, 53 member states have ratified the Convention and continues to call on its universalization. We commend the work of the Committee in last 5 years, since its establishment in 2011, and its results achieved in cooperation with member states and other relevant organs, in particular special procedures. It is encouraging that the Committee has already considered 18 initial reports and adopted first follow-up reports on concluding observations. In that regard, we would like to express our appreciation for its work and the level of expertise and cooperation of the Committee's members.

Therefore, we would like to support and to join ourselves in calls from previous speakers to all states parties to support the decision of the Conference to support continuity of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to monitor implementation of the Convention in accordance with articles 28 to 36.

We do believe that the issue of missing persons contributes to maintaining an atmosphere of distrust, and clarifying their fate is a legal and moral obligation to the victims, their families and society as a whole. To that end, and reaffirming the right of any person not to be subjected to enforced disappearances and the right to truth, Montenegro reiterates its full support to the work and mandate of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

Thank you.