Mr. President,

At the outset, let me thank the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Baudelaire Ndong Ella, for presenting the ninth annual report to the General Assembly. We appreciate the opportunity to interact with the President of the Council and the dialogue between the Council and the GA.

Montenegro aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Mr. President,

Human Rights Council undoubtedly has become an important venue for addressing international crisis and finding global solution to tough challenges as they unfold. Even though further enhancement of the credibility and effectiveness of the multilateral human rights system is priority of any HRC member state, I would like to emphasize once more that Montenegro will maximize its effort to this aim. As human rights are one of the fundamental pillars of the United Nations system, the Government of Montenegro recognizes the necessity of supporting the Council in fulfilling its mandate.

We applaud the Human Rights Council proactive and leading role in taking up crisis situations and gross violation of human rights in all corners of the world. HRC had achieved significant progress in dealing with human rights issues across the globe since its establishment eight years ago. Contribution of the Human Rights Council is even more important and relevant in situations when the Security Council is unable to provide timely response to the pressing
emergencies. In this regard we commend and strongly support establishment
and work of different Commissions of Inquiry that collect, despite all difficulties,
the detailed account of violations. We appreciate their continuing efforts to
illuminate the deteriorating situations. Montenegro will persist in advocating for
full accountability to be ensured for all violations of human rights and
international humanitarian law. Montenegro also reaffirms its support for a
comprehensive political solution as the best way to stop atrocities and guarantee
the respect for all human rights. We therefore encourage all the parties to reject
violence and participate constructively in an inclusive peace process.

Since Universal Periodic Review should be an efficient instrument for a
transparent and objective assessment of the human rights situation in each UN
Member State we oblige ourselves to contribute to this accomplishment. These
activities we cannot and do not implement individually. Therefore, involvement
and cooperation of all stakeholders - HRC, special procedure, NGOs, other state
and non state actors, will be of utmost importance. Allow me to stress that the
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also plays vital role in
encouraging states and providing them with assistance to meet their protection
responsibilities.

At this point I would like to emphasise that Montenegro has extended a standing
invitation to all special procedure being firmly convinced of their crucial role in
advancing the human rights agenda. By doing so we demonstrate our
commitment to cooperate and respect the highest standard of protection. In that
regard, we expect that all member states will follow the same path.

Mr. President,

I would particularly like to voice concern about the shortfalls in funding of the
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Allow me to recall that
Montenegro was one of more than 50 countries that called upon Secretary-
General to recommend increased proportion of the UN regular budget to be
devoted to the OHCHR, due to the significant and continuing growth in the
volume of the OHCHR activities. Having in mind the surge of interest in human
rights, reflected inter alia in the proliferation of new mechanisms and mandates,
human rights treaty bodies and treaty bodies experts, resolutions passed in the
Council, we strongly believe that this funding deficit should be addressed as a
matter of priority in order not to compromise the capacity of OHCHR to carry
out its complex mandate.

As a member of HRC, let me reiterate our genuine commitment to further
advance human rights agenda and ensure implementation of international
human rights norms and standards.