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STATEMENT

By H.E. **Dr. Vesna Đukić**
Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations
at the Third Committee of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Agenda item 20 - Advancement of Women
12 October 2011

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Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of my full support of the delegation of Montenegro. My efforts to lead the work of the Committee to the successful conclusion of the issues on the agenda are my priority.

Mr. Chairman,

Recognizing the importance of Gender Equality and in order to better implement the commitments enshrined in the document, the Government of Montenegro closely cooperates with international organizations and institutions. As a result of this cooperation, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Policy, regular agenda, is undertaking activities to promote women's participation in political and public life and their greater representation in decision-making processes. Integral part of these activities includes recently adopted Electoral Law which defines an obligation for inclusion of at least 30% of women on electoral lists, as well as sanctions which consist of re-election if it is not in compliance with the law.

In cooperation with the European Commission and UNDP, the Government of Montenegro has launched the IPA Program of Gender Equality which will be implemented in the next three years and which focuses on three main issues: women's participation, economic empowerment of women and domestic violence.

Furthermore, in the past, cooperation between national and local mechanisms for gender equality has intensified. Six municipalities have prepared local action plans for gender equality. Approval of action plans is in progress.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the issue of domestic violence, after the adoption of the relevant law in 2014, the Domestic Violence Protection Strategy has been adopted in July of this year. Prepared with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF and OSCE, the Strategy defines its goals and activities for improvement of social and overall protection of women which include: nationalization of existing and adoption of new regulations, improvement of social and other protection for victims, raising awareness, development of programs for protection of domestic violence, development of multidisciplinary treatment model for the prevention and protection from domestic violence, and cooperation between all stakeholders in protecting victims, and ensuring psychosocial treatment to the perpetrators. The process of creation of Commission for coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy is currently ongoing.

Recognizing the problem of violence against women, national mechanism for gender equality since its inception, has participated in the Global Campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. Campaign is organized in close cooperation with CIVICOM, UNFPA and OSCE.

Mr. Chairman...

Government of Montenegro pays greater attention to improvement of the status of marginalized women and vulnerable groups, such as rural women, elderly, unemployed, women with disabilities, and Roma and Egyptian women. For these vulnerable groups, special action plans are prepared. The new Action Plan for Advancing Gender Equality in Montenegro for 2013-2017 will give more attention to the empowerment of these vulnerable groups, as a basis for achieving a better overall position in the society. Bearing in mind the importance given to the situation of women in rural areas, several training programs are being implemented to grant rural women equal access to labor market and the acquisition of appropriate skills, particularly in the field of information and communication technologies. An analysis was conducted of the needs and situations of women in rural areas, leading to the development and implementation of Life Action Programme for the Empowerment of Rural Women.

Mr. Chairman,

Fully acknowledging the contribution of non-governmental organizations and the entire civil society in promoting gender equality, the fight for women's rights and protection from discrimination and violence against women, the Government of Montenegro has also recognized the need to continue and expanding cooperation with civil society. The government remains committed to the dialogue and cooperation with civil society. Montenegro considers such cooperation a foundation of a democratic and society based on broad and active participation of all stakeholders.

Thank you very much.