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27 August 2010

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 77th session, held in Geneva from 2 to 27 August 2010, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Montenegro, pursuant to Rule 65(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 10, and 15 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/MNE/CO/1) adopted in March 2009 following the consideration of the State party's initial report by the Committee during its seventy-fourth session. The Committee thus appreciates the opportunity provided to continue the dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its second and third periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 3 June 2011.

Paragraph 9 of the Concluding Observations The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided and notes with satisfaction the measures taken by the State party with a view to adopt a law on non-discrimination embodying all the provisions of article 2 of the Convention, namely the Draft Law on Protection from Discrimination. The Committee encourages the State party to accelerate the adoption of the aforementioned law and respectfully requests the State party to provide information on progress and adoption by Parliament to the Committee.

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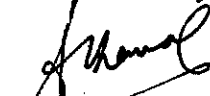
Paragraph 10 of Concluding Observations The Committee notes the information provided by the State party with respect to an extension of two years for its harmonization initiative. It congratulates the State party on the harmonization of thirteen out of a total of sixteen internal laws with the 2007 Constitution and takes note of the three laws in process. The Committee encourages the State party to continue the process of bringing its internal laws in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention. Additionally, the Committee notes information on the adoption of the Proposal of the Law on Amendments of the Law on Minorities Rights and Freedoms and would appreciate receiving updated information on the consideration of this draft law in the State party's next report.

Paragraph 15 of Concluding Observations The Committee wishes to thank the State party for the detailed information provided and takes note of the laws in place to address the difficulties faced by displaced persons from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, including their access to identification documents. The Committee encourages the State party's in its activities, such as the Action Plan and the informative campaign carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration, to solve the situation of displaced and internally displaced persons. The Committee further commends the State party in its efforts to provide financial support to persons from Bukovica in order to ensure their return to Montenegro. The Committee would be interested in receiving additional statistical data, in the State party's next periodic report, on the number of persons that have obtained the status of foreigner with permanent resident in the State party as well as those that have benefitted from financial support. With regard to the Law on Amendments of the Law on Foreigners, the Committee congratulates the State party on its delivery and encourages the State party to accelerate its adoption.

Although it remains concerned about the kind of requirements needed, as mentioned in the report, to be fulfilled by displaced and internally displaced persons for admittance in the Montenegrin citizenship, the Committee is positive that the State party will continue to strengthen cooperation with the identified partners, namely, UNHCR and other international organizations and diplomatic and consular representative offices in the State party. Furthermore the Committee strongly reiterates its recommendation that the State party ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness adopted in 1961.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Montenegro, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Anwar Kemal
Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination