

Received 4/12/2009

at 5.20 pm



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva*

*Ambassador
Permanent Representative*

Your Excellency,

As clearly stated in the national Report of the Republic of Cyprus with reference A/HRC/WG.6/6/CYP/1 dated 16 September 2009, prepared and submitted in line with Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1 the Government of Cyprus shares the collective obligation of continuing to promote and protect international human rights standards, and, at the same time, of demonstrating the required determination to combat all forms of human rights violations.

Cyprus placed primary importance to this review mechanism and the realization of its objectives and we have indeed appreciated, in the process of preparing our national Report, the immense practical value of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. We have, thus, from the beginning approached the process entailed, with due seriousness and respect as one that facilitates the aim of fully implementing the obligation of states to continuously work for the promotion of human rights at, both, national and international level.

Disappointingly, following the recent review of the Republic of Cyprus by the Universal Periodic Review Working Group on November 30, 2009, a draft report was presented to the Cypriot delegation that contains non-UN terminology with regard to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus, *as defined in relevant UN Security Council resolutions, in particular, resolution 541(1983) and 550 (1984)*, and language that runs contrary to the agreed UPR basis, *as defined by the Human Rights Council in paragraph 1 of the annex to its resolution 5/1 on institution-building of the Council*.

From the outset we spared no effort and engaged constructively with a spirit of flexibility and creativity in consultations with Your Excellency and the members of the Troika, aiming at finding an acceptable solution. Regrettably this did not prove possible. As you have officially informed me today you have taken the decision to put the report for *ad referendum* adoption by the Working Group this afternoon.

Since we remain committed to the UPR mechanism and its objectives, which is an important tool for the protection and promotion of human rights, we will not oppose to your decision. We do however believe that it is not in line with the letter, spirit *and the principles* of the UPR process, which provide, inter alia, for a cooperative intergovernmental process to be conducted in an objective, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner, with the full involvement of the country under review. Therefore we do not wish to be directly or indirectly associated with this procedure and thus Cyprus will not be present in the Room when action will be taken.

H. E Mr. Alex Van Meeuwen
President of the Human Rights Council

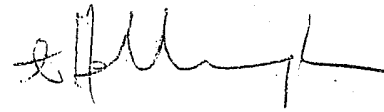
Cyprus does not feel bound by the report of the Working Group on the review of Cyprus, since it will not, as a State under review, be fully involved, in the process of its adoption by the Working Group.

Allow me to convey our gratitude for the valuable time and efforts you have personally devoted in trying to resolve the situation and kindly ask you to convey our appreciation to the members of the Troika for their tireless efforts in carrying out the task assigned to them.

At the same time allow me to express our thanks to all States that have participated constructively in Cyprus' Universal Periodic Review and assure them that their recommendations will be taken into due consideration by the Government of Cyprus.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter in the Room.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hadjichrysanthou', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andreas Hadjichrysanthou