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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Cyprus

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of Cyprus was held at the 13th meeting, on 29 January 2019. The delegation of Cyprus was headed by the Law Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Ms. Leda Koursoumba. At its 17th meeting, held on 31 January 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Cyprus.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Cyprus: Austria, Nepal and Uruguay.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Cyprus:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/CYP/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/CYP/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/CYP/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America was transmitted to Cyprus through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation stated that the national report was prepared by the Law Commission in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, government departments, independent authorities and monitoring mechanisms. The Government was grateful for the participation of the civil society organisations in the process of adopting legislative acts, strategies and action plans presented in the national report.
6. Cyprus had taken significant steps in further promoting human rights despite the 2013 financial crisis and challenges arising from migratory flows. The Government's commitment to promoting human rights had been enhanced by the establishment of a Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Justice. Cyprus became one of the first countries that had conducted a voluntary review on the implementation of Agenda 2030.
7. In its commitment to implementing Sustainable Development Goal 5, the National Action Plan aimed to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, focusing primarily on protecting and empowering vulnerable groups of women.
8. The Ministry of Justice Equality Unit and the National Mechanism for Women's Rights played a leading role in the overall promotion of gender equality. The Commissioner for Gender Equality was appointed to further advance women's rights. The reform of the

Family Law was one of the Government's priorities, thus promoting full harmonization with the international and European human rights instruments.

9. The Government's policies had advanced the position of women in the labour market and reduced the gender pay gap. Amendments to the Maternity Protection Law and introduction of the Paternity Law had had a positive impact.

10. The importance of women's participation in conflict-resolution was reflected in the context of the latest settlement effort on the Cyprus question. Particularly, the bi-communal Technical Committee on Gender Equality was established to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 and advise the formal peace process. The Commissioner for Gender Equality was preparing the first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2022).

11. Cyprus had ratified the Istanbul Convention and was promoting a comprehensive legislative framework to prevent and combat violence against women and raise public awareness. A "Women's Home" was underway to support the victims of violence and their families.

12. Concerning trafficking in persons, the Cyprus Police Office of Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings had been reinforced with specialized investigators. The legislative framework was also reinforced. The Government cooperated with NGOs to better protect victims and safeguard their rights. Police officers, together with welfare, labour, health, asylum, and immigration officers regularly participated in specialized training on identifying potential victims.

13. Regarding the rights of the child, Cyprus had ratified the Lanzarote Convention and enacted a comprehensive law to implement the provisions of the Convention. Furthermore, a National Strategy and an Action Plan on Combatting Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography were adopted. Additionally, the "Children's Home" to support child victims and their families and a Coordination Committee to Prevent and Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children were established.

14. Systematic efforts had been made to increase access to education for all children and strengthen the quality of the education, in line with SDG 4. Cyprus also aimed to ensure equal opportunities at all levels of education and an Action Plan for Gender Equality in Education (2018-2020) was adopted. Furthermore, a National Strategy for the Prevention and Combatting Violence in Schools was developed.

15. With regard to the protection of children, the head of delegation stated that Cyprus had launched the "Baby's Dowry" project, aimed at addressing poverty through the provision of basic material assistance to the new-borns in deprived families. The Government had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. Cyprus also paid particular attention to the rights of migrant children who were entitled to health, education and social care. The head of delegation stated that migrant children were never detained.

16. Cyprus accorded a high priority to the rights of children with disabilities. The Law on Special Education was in the process of being reformed. The First National Disability Strategy (2018-2028) and the Second National Disability Action Plan (2018-2020) were approved based on the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

17. Cyprus was fully committed to advancing the rights of the LGBTI community, and joined the Equal Rights Coalition. A Law on Civil Partnership of Same or Opposite-sex Couples was enacted and the Criminal Code was amended, including homophobic motivation and gender identity as aggravating circumstances.

18. Cyprus gave particular emphasis on combating racism, respecting diversity and facilitating the integration of children from diverse ethnic backgrounds in the education system. The Code of Conduct against Racism and the Guide for Managing and Reporting Racist Incidents served as a toolbox for schools.

19. The head of delegation stated that Cyprus attached great importance to the protection of cultural heritage and its linkage to the enjoyment of cultural rights.

20. In 2018, Cyprus had recorded the highest per capita rate of registered first-time applications for asylum in the European Union. Cyprus was working towards the implementation of the Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees. The Asylum Service had been reinforced with additional personnel and the reception conditions had improved. Additionally, asylum-seekers had free access to healthcare, with priority granted to possible victims of torture.

21. The head of delegation stated that Cyprus was in full compliance with the EU acquis on the labour rights of migrants. Measures were implemented, including a special mechanism for regular inspections of private employment agencies.

22. The Government had undertaken the general prison reform based on human-centred approach aiming at the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates.

23. Cyprus successfully implemented an EU-IMF macroeconomic adjustment programme. The introduction of the Guaranteed Minimum Income had played a major role towards improving poverty indicators.

24. The head of delegation stated that the most serious obstacle for the enjoyment of human rights by the people of Cyprus was the continued illegal occupation of about one third of its territory by a foreign country, since 1974. She stated that the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights clearly stressed that the violations of human rights in the occupied part of Cyprus were imputable to that foreign country. The Government of Cyprus was regrettably not in a position to ensure respect of human rights treaties, nor to apply its human rights laws and policies in the areas not under its effective control. The information and data presented in its national report and Cyprus' opening statement concerned areas under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 82 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

26. Uruguay welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the implementation of the new National Action Plan on Gender Equality.

27. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the National Action Plan on Gender Equality. It highlighted the National Strategy to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography.

28. Viet Nam appreciated the efforts to protect and promote the rights of vulnerable groups, and welcomed the leading role of Cyprus in the region in addressing climate change.

29. Afghanistan commended Cyprus on the measures taken to protect the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers and the initiatives to promote equal access to education for all children.

30. Albania congratulated Cyprus on the ratification of international legal instruments and appreciated the adoption of actions plan on gender equality as well as the fight against domestic violence and gender discrimination in employment.
31. Algeria noted the measures taken to ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the endorsement of the Charter on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.
32. Argentina congratulated Cyprus on the signature of the Safe Schools Declaration and celebrated the adoption of the new Action Plan on Gender Equality.
33. Armenia applauded the achievements in combating trafficking in human beings and thanked Cyprus for its policies to protect the rights of religious minority groups.
34. Australia noted that women continued to be absent from senior peace and security roles in Cyprus. It also noted reports of ongoing discrimination against LGBTI persons.
35. Azerbaijan remained deeply concerned by the widespread use of lengthy detention of asylum seekers as well as victims of trafficking. It stated that overcrowding and cases of torture in prisons remained to be addressed.
36. Bahrain commended the new national action plan for gender equality 2018-2021.
37. Belarus noted the adoption of laws to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, and the implementation of new national plans, including on gender equality and combating domestic violence.
38. Bhutan noted the ratification of key international human rights instruments, and commended Cyprus for taking a proactive role in advocating cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage.
39. Brazil commended the gender-sensitive approach regarding the role of women in conflict-resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconciliation and sustainable peace, and encouraged Cyprus to continue efforts towards the elaboration of its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.
40. Bulgaria commended measures against the destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage worldwide and in Europe, and appreciated the priority attached to the rights of children and of persons with disabilities.
41. Canada welcomed the positive steps taken by Cyprus to advance gender equality, including creating a Strategic Action Plan on Gender Equality and a technical committee to implement the plan.
42. Chile recognized the ratification of numerous international treaties on human rights, following up on the recommendations accepted in the second cycle of the universal periodic review.
43. China commended active implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and measures against destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, and welcomed implementation of the 2018-2021 National Action Plan for gender equality.
44. Croatia commended efforts at prison reform. It stated that there was room for improvement in the areas of prevention of violence against women, including trafficking of women and girls, and equality between men and women.
45. Cuba noted the various initiatives undertaken to implement the recommendations of the previous review, including updating of legislation, policies and national plans.

46. Denmark stated that indigenous peoples are amongst the most marginalised populations around the world, often facing discrimination and exploitative labour conditions violating their human rights.
47. The Dominican Republic appreciated the efforts made by Cyprus with the ratification of new international instruments to guarantee better protection of human rights in the country.
48. Ecuador noted the implementation of the new National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2018-2021).
49. Egypt complimented the pioneering role of Cyprus in combating the destruction of archaeological international heritage, and welcomed the National Action Plan 2018-21 for gender equality.
50. El Salvador welcomed the completion of the voluntary national review for the 2030 Agenda, as well as expressed commitments to advance the Agenda's implementation.
51. Ethiopia commended Cyprus for actively promoting, regionally and internationally, the adoption of measures against destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage.
52. Cyprus provided replies and stated that monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations was conducted by the Law Commissioner in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Government held consultations with all competent services and civil society organisations and took into consideration their views.
53. Cyprus was strengthening its efforts to improve the working conditions of all non-EU workers. Their terms of employment were the same as those provided in collective agreements. Cyprus had ratified the ILO Forced Labour Protocol and had taken steps towards ratifying the ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention as its provisions were met by national law. Furthermore, the supervision of private employment agencies was strengthened and the performance of the inspectorate mechanism had been enhanced.
54. The Safety and Health Law covered domestic workers. Deportation of injured workers due to their illegal status was suspended. In addition, non-EU nationals residing in Cyprus were entitled to the same social security benefits as Cypriot nationals.
55. The delegation stated that with regard to access to the labour market, the Public Employment Service offered placement in the Government controlled areas and vocational guidance services to Turkish Cypriot job seekers who hold a Cyprus identity card, irrespective of whether they lived in the Government-controlled or occupied territories. Furthermore, all Cypriots living in the non-Government controlled areas had access to healthcare benefits under the same conditions as the rest of the population.
56. With regard to asylum, Cyprus remained committed to its international obligations and had secured the provision of appropriate reception conditions for asylum-seekers, a proper status determination procedure including a special identification procedure for vulnerable persons and effective remedies. Asylum seekers were never detained. A new operational scheme for the Reception and Accommodation Centre in Kofinou was introduced with the deployment of additional personnel, offering cleaning, security and health services. A coordination mechanism was established, which foresaw the participation of NGOs and the UNHCR.
57. Detention of migrants was used as a measure of last resort, whilst priority was given to voluntary returns. Detention for the longest period possible occurred only when serious matters of public order and security were involved. Detentions were reviewed on a monthly basis.

58. The delegation stated that the main focus of the integration policy was the inclusion of non-EU nationals into society, for example through free Greek language courses and vocational training. Awareness campaigns were conducted for the sensitization of the general public.
59. Regarding trafficking, the national legislation was victim-centred and included a gender perspective. Accordingly, victims were entitled to a temporary residence permit, emergency medical treatment, and access to social benefits such as full access to the Guaranteed Minimum Income scheme.
60. With regard to nationality, Cyprus stated that legislation did not include any discriminatory provisions against any ethnic group or non-EU nationals.
61. The Government was in the process of considerably expanding the range of jobs to which asylum seekers had access. Additionally, asylum seekers had access to the labour market one month after they apply for asylum, instead of 6 months under the previous arrangements. The improved access to the labour market, together with the material reception conditions provided to asylum seekers, were considered sufficient and the process was streamlined allowing the avoidance of significant delays in the reception of monthly coupons and rent allowance. Emergency financial assistance in cash and immediate rehabilitation was provided to asylum seekers who were unable to secure accommodation.
62. France welcomed progress in the combating of gender discrimination in the work place, protection of asylum seekers, child protection, and the adoption of a law to fight against discrimination and violence on the grounds of sexual orientation.
63. Georgia commended the ratification of international legal instruments, and positively assessed the adoption of national plans to combat domestic violence and human trafficking.
64. Germany was concerned about the increasing homelessness among asylum-seekers and the current approach to processing applications for Cypriot nationality.
65. Greece commended Cyprus for the implementation of the National Action Plans for Gender Equality and for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family. It commended Cyprus for measures taken in favour of unaccompanied migrant children.
66. Honduras congratulated Cyprus on the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality.
67. Hungary commended measures to protect vulnerable groups, including women and children. It remained concerned about the low school attendance and high drop-out rates among Roma children.
68. Iceland commended progress in ensuring access to asylum procedures and protection from refoulement.
69. India appreciated efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. It welcomed the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018-2021.
70. Indonesia welcomed the adoption of the 2017-2019 National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in Family and amendments to the Maternal Protection Law.
71. Iran commended efforts to improve the normative and structural frameworks aimed at promoting human rights and the establishment of new complaint mechanisms for domestic workers and laborers.
72. Iraq commended efforts to bridge the gender pay gap.

73. Ireland welcomed the prioritisation of women's rights and gender equality, and appreciated efforts to integrate migrants. Ireland was concerned over obstacles faced by particular groups in attaining Cypriot nationality.
74. Israel was encouraged by progress achieved in improving gender equality, including a significant decrease in the gender pay gap. Israel welcomed the implementation of a National Action Plan against Human Trafficking.
75. Italy praised efforts to promote cultural rights and protect cultural heritage.
76. Jordan expressed appreciation for Cyprus's commitment to enforce fundamental freedoms as crystallised in the various legislative, constitutional and structural amendments.
77. Kuwait praised efforts to integrate human rights and SDGs, and commended efforts to ensure appropriate healthcare for children and protect them from violence and sexual abuse.
78. Kyrgyzstan was pleased to note efforts towards the empowerment of women, gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women and efforts to protect the rights of the child.
79. Lao commended Cyprus on progress made in implementing the recommendations made in the previous UPR cycle, including the promotion of gender equality and the rights of women and children.
80. Lebanon commended the establishment of mechanisms of joining the main international human rights instruments and promoting the protection of vulnerable groups.
81. Malaysia commended progress made especially in socio-economic sectors, noting that despite those advancements, prevailing challenges in the area of poverty reduction, healthcare and education could be better addressed, in order to improve the living conditions.
82. The Maldives welcomed the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and the "Strategy on the Health Rights of the Child".
83. Malta commended the steps taken over the past four years, in particular those aimed at the advancement of the rights of LGBTI persons in Cyprus.
84. Mexico recognized advances since the previous cycle and in particularly the establishment of the Commission for Administration and Human Rights.
85. Montenegro encouraged Cyprus to intensify efforts to adopt a comprehensive bill aimed at fully integrating the provisions of the Istanbul Convention into domestic legislation. Montenegro welcomed the improvement of the overall framework for protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
86. Myanmar appreciated the positive developments in implementing the recommendations made during its second UPR, despite its challenges.
87. Nepal applauded the decision of Cyprus to assume a leading role and coordinate efforts with the region to reverse the impact of climate change, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean. It welcomed the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018-2021 and hoped for its effective implementation.
88. The Netherlands encouraged Cyprus to continue efforts towards re-unification. It commended progress in the field of equal rights for LGBTI persons. It remained concerned about discrimination, particularly on the basis of racial and ethnic background. It stated that further steps needed to be taken to ensure the non-discriminatory application of the law on obtaining nationality and prevent statelessness.

89. Nicaragua made a recommendation.
90. Nigeria commended Cyprus cooperation with human rights mechanisms and upholding human rights, and efforts in implementing the previous recommendations. Nigeria acknowledged efforts in protecting the rights of migrants, and combatting human trafficking.
91. Oman recognised Cyprus interest in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly cultural rights, the protection of cultural heritage, the elimination of climate change, gender equality and the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.
92. Cyprus provided replies and stated that education in public schools was focused on tolerance and respect of other cultures. The Government continued its support for the Imagine Programme, which was approved by the negotiators of the two communities. During the programme, Greek Cypriot pupils come into contact with their Turkish Cypriot peers accompanied by their teachers and discuss issues of stereotyping, discrimination and racism.
93. The Government had been striving to meet the educational needs of members of the religious groups. The Cultural Services promoted and protected the rights of religious groups. Separate funds had been reserved and dedicated to the three religious groups, following close consultation with the communities.
94. In the Government-controlled areas, 101 Muslim places of worship were protected, restored and maintained by the authorities. The Government facilitated the ritual services of Turkish Cypriots and other Muslims residing in Cyprus.
95. The legislative framework regulated the identification of children with disabilities, their assessment and placement in the educational setting with provision of teachers, care assistants, educational resources, special equipment, assistive technology and evaluation of the child's progress. Cyprus promoted the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream classrooms.
96. The delegation stated that in order to remedy the problem of overcrowding in prisons, the Government had enacted legislation enlarging the possibilities for conditional release, as well as use of electronic monitoring. Prison facilities were constantly being repaired, reconstructed and enlarged. The Community Service framework was under consideration as an alternative to imprisonment of pre-trial inmates.
97. All persons under the age of 21, who entered prison facilities following the commission of a crime, were treated as juveniles. Special attention was paid to the individual needs relating to the age and personal development and were regularly monitored and assessed. They served their sentences in a recently renovated juvenile wing. All inmates, including juveniles, received sufficient and clean bedding and materials for personal hygiene.
98. The delegation stated that inmates who cannot bear the cost of the proceedings were entitled to receive free legal aid. Regarding prison visits, all visitors, including Turkish Cypriots, were required to comply with the applicable rules and standards.
99. Solitary confinement had ceased to be used as a measure of punishment. All lock-ups were registered and were used only to investigate incidents. Prevention policies and procedures were established to deal with inter-prisoner violence and bullying. There were also positive developments resulting in the absence of suicides in the past 3 years. Complaints and allegations of ill-treatment of inmates by staff were immediately investigated by the police and the Prisons Department and inmates underwent systematic medical screening.
100. Regarding police detention facilities, significant improvements had been achieved, resulting in advances in the quality of life of detainees and the enjoyment of their rights. The Ombudsman, as the national mechanism on monitoring forced returns, and its officers had free access to police detention facilities without prior notification. The Independent Authority

for Allegations against the Police investigated allegations of ill-treatment by the police, and in many instances criminal or disciplinary prosecutions were initiated.

101. With regard to hate and hate motivated crimes, the Government implemented a zero tolerance strategy for any discriminatory behaviour by police and prison staff. Police statistics on incidents and cases of a racial nature or with a racist motive were updated and published on an annual basis and were publicly available through the police website. As the most recently updated data indicate that the majority, i.e. 60 percent, of all cases resulted in conviction, translating to a ratio of 9 convictions to 1 acquittal.

102. Cyprus was taking measures to ensure a pluralistic and vibrant media landscape. The authorities thoroughly investigated all reported cases of threats against journalists and appropriate action was taken. As for hate rhetoric over the Internet, most IT companies had agreed with the European Union on a code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online.

103. The Philippines lauded Cyprus commitment to promote gender equality, advance the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, combat trafficking in persons, and address climate change impacts.

104. Poland welcomed efforts to address women's rights and gender equality as well as measures to combat gender discrimination in education. It stated that there was room for improvement regarding the support and protection of victims of human trafficking.

105. Portugal commended measures to combat domestic violence and ensure women's rights and gender equality.

106. Qatar appreciated measures to further promote the human rights of women through the adoption of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018-2021 and the First National Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security.

107. Republic of Korea noted the ratification of five major international legal instruments in areas such as the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities.

108. Republic of Moldova commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and the Charter on inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

109. Romania welcomed the emphasis to promote women's rights and gender equality and the active role of Cyprus in protecting and promoting cultural heritage.

110. The Russian Federation noted the efforts to conduct a voluntary review on the implementation of the Agenda 2030, to ratify international human rights instruments and to implement the National Action Plan for Gender Equality.

111. Saudi Arabia appreciated the steps taken to protect children's rights, including in education and health.

112. Senegal welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality and the constitutional provisions to be implemented following reunification focusing on women's participation in political life.

113. Serbia commended the initiative for voluntary review on the implementation of Agenda 2030 and welcomed the implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality.

114. Seychelles commended Cyprus for becoming a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the adoption of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality.

115. Slovakia appreciated the ratification on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on communications procedure as well as the strategy on the Health Rights of the Child.
116. Slovenia noted the adoption of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality.
117. Spain congratulated progress made by Cyprus in combatting violence against women and gender inequality and the recognition of homophobia as an aggravating criminal circumstance.
118. Sri Lanka was encouraged by steps to combat gender discrimination in the areas of education and employment, and to address the gender pay gap.
119. The State of Palestine acknowledged efforts to combat gender stereotypes from an early age, and to promote diversity and combat racism in the classroom.
120. Sweden welcomed the continuous positive development regarding human rights, while recognizing that the unresolved Cyprus issue hindered the full enjoyment of human rights, including property rights and other human rights violations in the area not under the Government's effective control.
121. Togo welcomed the adoption of the legislative and administrative measures to combat human trafficking and the mechanisms put in place to support victims.
122. Tunisia commended the adoption of national strategies and legislation in gender equality and empowerment of vulnerable groups.
123. Turkey stated that its intervention on Cyprus carried out in the wake of a coup d'état in 1974 was fully legal under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee.
124. Cyprus, raising a point of order, stated that the statement of Turkey contravened the rules of procedure of the Working Group on the universal periodic review, which was mandated to examine the human rights situation in the Republic of Cyprus. Cyprus stated that it was imperative that all erroneous references, including non-UN terminology be omitted from the record and the report of the Working Group meeting, and that Turkey cease the politicisation of the process. Cyprus requested the President of the Human Rights Council to make a ruling to this effect.
125. The President of the Human Rights Council recalled that questions of a political and territorial nature did not fall within the mandate of the Human Rights Council. He recalled that certain issues were already on the agenda of other bodies that were more competent in those areas. The President invited the delegations to focus on human rights issues in their interventions and to avoid territorial and bilateral issues which politicize the debate.
126. Turkey stated that there were an increasing number of preconceived attacks and incidents perpetrated against Turkish Cypriots and that they remained largely unpunished. Turkey stated that there was still no Turkish-language school in the south, and that there was no mosque in the south for unrestricted and continuous worship. It stated that many Turkish Cypriots were prevented from crossing into the south on the basis of their ethnic origin or the origin of their ancestors.
127. Turkmenistan commended the efforts Cyprus towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, including its first National Voluntary Review in 2017.
128. Ukraine appreciated the efforts of Cyprus aimed at the protection of environmental rights, namely the activities on reversing the impact of climate change and its negative repercussions, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean.
129. United Arab Emirates stated that Cyprus played a leading role in the protection of cultural heritage.

130. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized human rights progress, including efforts to combat human trafficking and modern slavery, and to protect and promote women's rights. It was concerned by the deprivation of citizenship to Turkish Cypriot children with one parent who is a non-Cypriot national.

131. United States of America recognized the challenges faced by Cyprus related to migration and the political division of the island. It was concerned about allegations that investigations of police for mistreatment of persons in detention were hampered by lack of resources and personal ties between accused police officers and investigators.

132. The Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus recalled that almost all Turkish Cypriots, irrespective of where they live, were holders of Cypriot birth certificates, IDs and passports. He mentioned that the Government had to adopt emergency measures to counter the influx of illegal settlers, including the adoption of criteria concerning the granting of Cypriot nationality to them and their descendants.

133. Turkey, raising a point of order, stated that Cyprus should not be exempt from the rules of procedure and should refrain from making political statements.

134. The Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus stated that all the cases to grant Cypriot nationality were examined on humanitarian grounds. He stated that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus was working towards a solution that respects the expectation of all Cypriots and will result in a functional federal State based on United Nations Security Council resolutions, the agreements of the leaders of the two communities, free from occupation armies, rights of intervention, and guarantees. He stated that the occupation power has obligations.

135. Turkey, raising a point of order, reminded that Cyprus was not exempt from the rules of procedure and stated that the only occupation was that of the Greek Cypriot administration.

136. The President of the Human Rights Council repeated his first announcement that the meeting was not destined to address bilateral, territorial or political issues and requested the delegations to focus on human rights issues in their interventions. He reminded that points of order should be on procedural matters.

137. The Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus confirmed and reaffirmed that the Government ensures the effective participation of Turkish Cypriots living in all the parts of the Republic of Cyprus. The Government had also been ready to establish a Turkish-language school in Limassol, but had encountered parental resistance out of fear for isolation or discrimination of their children.

138. The head of delegation stated that Cyprus attributed great importance to the universal periodic review. She expressed confidence that the outcome of the review would contribute to further enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in Cyprus. The universal periodic review provided a good opportunity to reflect on achievements and to set new goals in the area of human rights protection and promotion.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

139. The following recommendations will be examined by Cyprus, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council:

139.1 Expediate the ratification and or the accession process of international instruments that are pending (Ethiopia);

- 139.2 Consider adhering to the international and human rights instruments to which Cyprus is not yet a party, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, No.169, and the Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, among others (Honduras);
- 139.3 Continue efforts to ensure serious implementation of the international instruments that Cyprus has ratified (Jordan);
- 139.4 Consider adhering to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and accelerate the process of ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as of the Domestic Workers Convention of the International Labour Organization (Uruguay);
- 139.5 Ratify the international human rights instruments not yet ratified, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Azerbaijan);
- 139.6 Join the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Kyrgyzstan);
- 139.7 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Albania);
- 139.8 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq) (Italy) (Montenegro) (Spain); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, currently under consideration, as previously recommended (Portugal);
- 139.9 Become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Seychelles);
- 139.10 Continue efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);
- 139.11 Initiate early ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sri Lanka);
- 139.12 Continue working on the ratification of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Uruguay);
- 139.13 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and develop a national plan and procedures to address all issues related to stateless persons (Brazil);
- 139.14 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Republic of Moldova) (Spain);
- 139.15 Ratify and implement into national legislation the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);

- 139.16 **Intensify efforts in accomplishing ratification of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);**
- 139.17 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Dominican Republic) (Greece); Complete the process of signing the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as previously recommended (Portugal);**
- 139.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ecuador); (Montenegro); (Togo);**
- 139.19 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Albania);**
- 139.20 **Ratify the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers, 2011 (Togo);**
- 139.21 **Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);**
- 139.22 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 139.23 **Review the Law on the Procedure for Standardization of Geographical Names, which criminalize the publication and circulation of material containing place names that are different from those specified in official documents (Sweden);**
- 139.24 **Further implement policies and measures designed to protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, and migrants (China);**
- 139.25 **Take the necessary steps to bring the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights fully into compliance with the Paris Principles (Germany); Make the necessary improvements so that the Commission for Administration and Human Rights has a higher category, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico); Ensure that the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles with a view to obtaining an A-accreditation (Poland); Ensure the compliance by the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights with the Paris Principles (Qatar); Enable the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights to be fully in line with the Paris Principles (Senegal); Bring the National Human Rights Institution fully in line with the Paris Principles (Togo); Ensure that its national human rights institution, the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights, is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**
- 139.26 **Continue the effort of human rights training at all levels of government and concerned agencies (France);**
- 139.27 **Continue to organise training programs by the national police academy on investigating crimes committed in the context of racism and hate speech (Jordan);**
- 139.28 **invest more resources in the training of lawyers, prosecutors and judges in specific knowledge on violence against women, the needs and rights of victims, and the legal framework on violence against women in Cyprus (Spain);**
- 139.29 **Strengthen efforts in raising awareness and education on human rights (Bhutan);**

- 139.30 Continue its efforts for further advancement of raising awareness and education on human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 139.31 Organize campaigns and educational programmes, including in schools, to raise awareness on the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity (Romania);
- 139.32 Strengthen its efforts to safeguard and further advance the human rights through raising awareness and education on human rights (Turkmenistan);
- 139.33 Continue strengthening the fight against discrimination and hate speech against minority and vulnerable groups, and ensure that hate crimes are effectively prosecuted and their perpetrators convicted (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 139.34 Consider adopting a general law against discrimination in all its forms and on any grounds, guaranteeing victims' access to justice and redress in case of discrimination (Ecuador);
- 139.35 Strengthen efforts to eradicate racial discrimination against ethnic minorities, including by conducting public awareness-raising campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for diversity (Indonesia);
- 139.36 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law prohibiting all direct, indirect and multiple forms of discrimination on any grounds and that provides for effective remedies for victims of discrimination, including within judicial and administrative proceedings (Ireland);
- 139.37 Develop a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of members of the Roma in all areas of life, to ensure that they have access to adequate housing, education, employment and health care without discrimination and stigmatization (Poland);
- 139.38 Continue its work to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons (Russian Federation);
- 139.39 Adopt a strategy with an action plan to further combat discriminatory attitudes and hate speech towards migrants and racial minorities (Togo);
- 139.40 Continue its efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly people (Armenia);
- 139.41 Take measures to combat discrimination against the LGBTI community and consider legal measures that would punish incitement to hatred on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);
- 139.42 Continue efforts to prohibit discriminatory practices, defamation, incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence against persons because of their sexual orientation (France);
- 139.43 Step up efforts to enact the new legislation on transgender persons (Malta);
- 139.44 Provide further assistance to victims of discrimination or violence based on gender identity and sexual orientation (Malta);

- 139.45 Increase awareness-raising programmes and campaigns aimed at deterring public incitement of acts against persons on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Malta);
- 139.46 Criminalize incitement to hatred for reasons of sexual orientation or gender identity (Spain);
- 139.47 Take steps to protect and enforce the rights of its LGBTI community (Australia);
- 139.48 Establish a national mechanism to promote multiculturalism, acceptance and respect for diversity (Bahrain);
- 139.49 Strengthen its support for intercommunal dialogue and activities (Canada);
- 139.50 Establish a national committee to promote multiculturalism, acceptance and respect for diversity (Dominican Republic);
- 139.51 Establish a national committee to promote multiculturalism, acceptance and respect for diversity (Georgia);
- 139.52 Redouble efforts to promote tolerance towards persons belonging to ethnic, national, and racial minorities (Honduras);
- 139.53 Include gender identity as a prohibited ground for discrimination in equal treatment legislation and adopt an action plan to combat homophobia and transphobia in all areas of everyday life (Iceland);
- 139.54 Strengthen the efforts to promote inter-religion dialogue and understanding (Republic of Korea);
- 139.55 Establish a national committee to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity (Saudi Arabia);
- 139.56 Redouble efforts to eradicate racial discrimination against Turkish Cypriots and Roma (Chile);
- 139.57 Adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat racial stereotyping, discriminatory attitudes, hate speech and hate crimes and ensure enforcement of relevant legislation (Iceland);
- 139.58 Continue to promote sustained economic recovery and raise people's living standards so as to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);
- 139.59 Pursue efforts in order to place human rights at the heart of the framework for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Kuwait);
- 139.60 Continue implementing the UN 2030 agenda, with a particular focus on all goals that are directly related to human rights (United Arab Emirates);
- 139.61 Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serves to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);
- 139.62 Ensure that authorities carry out prompt, effective and impartial investigations with regard to the cases of torture or ill-treatment (Azerbaijan);
- 139.63 Investigate and hold accountable law enforcement officials responsible for alleged mistreatment of persons in detention (United States of America);

- 139.64 Continue to increase efforts aimed at improving the conditions of detention, including reducing overcrowding in prisons, ensuring access to qualified medical care, and preventing incidents of violence among prisoners (Belarus);
- 139.65 Continue to improve the human rights situation in prisons and detention centers through institutional capacity-building and training law enforcement officials (Lebanon);
- 139.66 Strengthen further efforts in the field of combating human trafficking, including improving the national mechanism for the identification, protection and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking (Belarus);
- 139.67 Continue the fight against trafficking in human beings and the engagement in the international cooperation in this respect (Bulgaria);
- 139.68 Improve the identification of trafficked people and provide adequate assistance and protection to these persons, particularly to women and young girls (Croatia);
- 139.69 Continue increasing actions in the fight against trafficking in persons - especially of women and children - and strengthen measures to detect and prevent this crime (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 139.70 Strengthen measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to migrants and women (Honduras);
- 139.71 Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in migrant workers, particularly women (Indonesia);
- 139.72 Ensure continuous implementation of the national framework on combating human trafficking and providing health care, psycho-social services and other forms of necessary support to the victims of trafficking (Afghanistan);
- 139.73 Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons and protection of women and children (Myanmar);
- 139.74 Take further measures in rehabilitation and reintegration of the trafficked victims (Myanmar);
- 139.75 Combat human trafficking and provide victims, particularly women and children, with appropriate protection and assistance for rehabilitation (Nepal);
- 139.76 Sustain its efforts in preventing and combatting human trafficking (Nigeria);
- 139.77 Take further practical and procedural measures to prevent human trafficking (Oman);
- 139.78 Further strengthen institutional capacity to combat trafficking in persons and enhance protection and rehabilitation measures for victims (Philippines);
- 139.79 Provide systematic rehabilitation and reintegration measures, counselling, medical treatment, psychological support and redress, including compensation, for victims of trafficking (Poland);
- 139.80 Keep up the efforts to investigate all cases of human trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Republic of Korea);

- 139.81 Apply legal provisions to combat trafficking in human beings, intensifying the identification, assistance and protection of victims, and the prosecution and conviction of offenders (Spain);
- 139.82 Take all necessary steps to work with representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to eliminate human trafficking (Australia);
- 139.83 Adopt a new National Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons for the period 2019-2021 (Bahrain);
- 139.84 Consider the adoption of a new national plan of action on combating trafficking in persons (Egypt);
- 139.85 Adopt a new National Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings for the period 2019-2021 (Georgia);
- 139.86 Adopt a new National Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings for the period 2019 – 2021 (Viet Nam);
- 139.87 Adopt a new action plan to combat human trafficking for the period of 2019-2021 (Israel);
- 139.88 Adopt a new action plan to combat human trafficking for the period 2019-2021 (Nicaragua);
- 139.89 ensure that persons in need of international protection, including those fleeing indiscriminate violence, are not detained (Azerbaijan);
- 139.90. Ensure the accessibility of religious sites and enjoyment of freedom of religion and cultural rights for all, without any discrimination (Indonesia);
- 139.91 Take the necessary measures to guarantee freedom of religion, eliminating all restrictions to access religious sites (Argentina);
- 139.92 Further promote and protect the rights of religious minorities (Armenia);
- 139.93 Ensure that the right of freedom of expression is equally guaranteed and enjoyed by all of its citizens and community members, including those involved in inter-communal activities and journalists (Netherlands);
- 139.94 Continue to provide assistance to asylum seekers so that they can, in particular benefit from free legal aid during the examination of their application in the first instance and from the assistance of a lawyer (Senegal);
- 139.95 Strengthen anti-corruption laws and enact regulations and codes of conduct to govern lobbying and decision making processes (Australia);
- 139.96 Ensure an equal treatment of all those applying for the Cypriot nationality (Germany);
- 139.97 Take adequate measures to ensure that nationality laws are applied universally on the basis of clearly defined criteria (Ireland);
- 139.98 Ensure the non-discriminatory application of the law regulating Cypriot nationality, so as to guarantee equal access to fundamental rights for all people on its territory, and to prevent statelessness by acceding to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 2000 European Convention on Nationality (Netherlands);

- 139.99 Take the necessary measures in order to eliminate from the national legislation all provisions that restrict rights and discriminate against persons belonging to certain groups or minorities, in particular guaranteeing the transmission of nationality (Argentina);
- 139.100 Review and amend relevant legal provisions, guaranteeing the right of all persons who have one Cypriot parent to obtain Republic of Cyprus nationality, on an equal basis with others, irrespective of the other parent's ethnicity, gender, place of residence or means of entering the country (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 139.101 Process citizenship applications for children of mixed Turkish Cypriot and Turkish parents within a reasonable timeframe (United States of America);
- 139.102 Continue measures aimed at effective implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Romania);
- 139.103 Step up efforts to continue reducing poverty and social exclusion (Cuba);
- 139.104 Intensify efforts to combat poverty (Iraq);
- 139.105 Continue undertaking measures to eradicate poverty and allocate adequate resources to assist those living in poverty (Malaysia);
- 139.106 Take measures to address multiple forms of discrimination and ensure protection for the rights of workers (Nepal);
- 139.107 Take concrete action to ensure greater human rights protection of domestic foreign workers, for example, improving oversight of working conditions to prevent labour exploitation in the domestic sector (Canada);
- 139.108 Take measures to combat gender discrimination in employment and guarantee equal pay for men and women for equal work or work of equal value (India);
- 139.109 Vest labour inspectors and the police with the adequate powers to investigate the working conditions of domestic workers and to strengthen the regulatory framework for private employment agencies (Slovenia);
- 139.110 Continue to take steps to improve the working conditions of all non-EU citizens and the safety and health of all workers including domestic workers (Sri Lanka);
- 139.111 Strengthen the capacity of the labour inspectorate to proactively identify victims of forced labour, particularly among vulnerable populations, and provide them with means of legal redress (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 139.112 Reduce restrictions on work authorizations for eligible asylum seekers as these restrictions put them at risk of unsafe working conditions and labor exploitation until the authorizations are provided (United States of America);
- 139.113 Continue implementing the strategy on healthcare rights of children (Kuwait);
- 139.114 Further improve access to health-care services for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers that would cover emergency health-care, regular access to public health institutions and mental health services (Slovenia);

- 139.115 Pursue efforts in provision of health care services provided by the public sector (Tunisia);
- 139.116 Improve the fulfillment of the right to health of persons living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV, particularly by expanding access to HIV-related prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support (Brazil);
- 139.117 Continue improving access to quality education, giving students the opportunity to successfully complete their learning, in accordance with the Strategic Plan 2018 - 2020 (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 139.118 Take steps to ensure the compulsory school attendance of all Roma children and enhance their equality in the education system (Hungary);
- 139.119 Strengthen its efforts to increase participation of members of the Roma Community in education sector and address the challenges such as the low school attendance and school drop outs (India);
- 139.120 Continue its efforts for ensuring access to inclusive education at all levels of education for all children, particularly for vulnerable groups including children belonging to minority communities, girls and children with disabilities (Afghanistan);
- 139.121 Support educational policy aimed at reducing disparities in education outcomes (Oman);
- 139.122 Continue its efforts to ensure equal access of all children to education while promoting tolerance and respect in its education policy (State of Palestine);
- 139.123 Ensure quality education for children and provide opportunities for students to succeed in their learning through its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, including the children with disabilities (Turkmenistan);
- 139.124 Continue efforts to further create awareness-raising campaigns and educational programmes to advocate cultural rights and protect cultural heritage (Bhutan);
- 139.125 Redouble efforts in the fight against discrimination and violence against women; and promote specific measures to achieve effective gender equality (Uruguay);
- 139.126 Continue the effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality, and take measures to eliminate the gender based wage inequality (Cuba);
- 139.127 Continue consolidating the achievements in the promotion of women's rights and welfare, enshrined in the new National Action Plan for Gender Equality (Dominican Republic);
- 139.128 Continue the national efforts aiming at empowering women and achieve equality between men and women in all areas (Egypt);
- 139.129 Continue policies of gender equality in all areas, particularly with regard to women's participation in political life (France);
- 139.130 Take necessary measures to further strengthen and activate the role of the national machinery for women's rights (Iraq);
- 139.131 Continue to implement the national policies and programmes aimed at further promoting gender equality as well as the rights of women and children (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

- 139.132 Follow-up efforts to eliminate discrimination in the areas of employment and education through the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2020-2018) (Lebanon);
- 139.133 Enhance efforts for gender equality and women empowerment programmes (Myanmar);
- 139.134 Ensure effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018-2021 (Philippines);
- 139.135 Consider introducing legislative measures to allow for positive action, such as quotas, to promote gender balance in decision-making on all levels and sectors (Republic of Moldova);
- 139.136 Address discrimination in schools through the allocation of sufficient resources to implement the Action Plan for Gender Equality in Education 2018-2020 (Seychelles);
- 139.137 Continue its efforts to reduce gender inequality in employment and education (Israel);
- 139.138 Continue measures to reduce gender wage gap and improve integration of women in employment (Maldives);
- 139.139 Continue efforts to promote women's rights and protect them from violence (Lebanon);
- 139.140 Address discrimination and sexual harassment faced by girls in schools (Malaysia);
- 139.141 Pursue efforts to eliminate violence against women and domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 139.142 Further strengthen women's representation in decision-making positions (Bhutan);
- 139.143 Further strengthen efforts to increase representation of women in decision-making positions in the political, economic and cultural life (Bulgaria);
- 139.144 Promote the participation of women in the labour market and in decision-making positions in the public sector (Chile);
- 139.145 Strengthen the participation of women in political and public life and their representation in decision-making bodies (Ethiopia);
- 139.146 Increase the level of participation of women in the labour market (Hungary);
- 139.147 Strengthen the representation of women in decision-making positions in political life with a view to reaching the targets and quotas included in the national action plan on gender equality (Iceland);
- 139.148 Continue its commitment to increasing and promoting participation of women in public and political life (Italy);
- 139.149 Take all necessary measures to increase the level of participation of women in the labour market, and their representation in senior positions both in the public and private sector, particularly decision-making positions in political life and peace negotiations, as well as to adopt further measures to close the gender wage gap (Poland);

- 139.150 **Adopt further measures to increase the level of participation of women in the labour market and to enable a balanced representation of men and women at all levels, including at senior and decision-making levels (Portugal);**
- 139.151 **Continue to involve more women and young people in public and political life and in the process of rapprochement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities (Slovakia);**
- 139.152 **Pursue efforts to strengthen gender equality and improve women's participation in decision making areas (Tunisia);**
- 139.153 **Continue efforts to develop the Plan of Action for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council for the implementation of the agenda on women and peace and security (El Salvador);**
- 139.154 **Adopt National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (Georgia);**
- 139.155 **Complete the elaboration of and adopt the first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (Greece);**
- 139.156 **Ensure the active participation of women in the peace process (Iceland);**
- 139.157 **Continue efforts to support the role of women in the success of the peace process (Oman);**
- 139.158 **Provide expeditious consideration to finalizing its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security and ensure its robust implementation (Philippines);**
- 139.159 **Accomplish preparation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (Ukraine);**
- 139.160 **Incorporate women in senior negotiating positions in future reunification talks (Australia);**
- 139.161 **Continue its efforts to provide care to unaccompanied migrant children, as well as respect for the principle of the best interest of the child (El Salvador);**
- 139.162 **Continue its efforts for preventing and combating sexual abuse and exploitation of the children, including in child pornography (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 139.163 **Establish a fully-fledged mechanism to deal with cases of sexual abuse against children (Saudi Arabia);**
- 139.164 **Take measures to ensure that juvenile offenders are tried before a specialised court for juveniles and are separated from adults in detention facilities (Hungary);**
- 139.165 **Take measures to ensure that minors are tried by a specialised juvenile justice tribunal and are separated from adults in detention centres (Algeria);**
- 139.166 **Adopt measures to guarantee the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the labour market (Chile);**
- 139.167 **Increase access in the health care sector for persons with disabilities to seek medical treatment (Malaysia);**

- 139.168 Continue to improve interventions to protect the rights of children with disabilities and their families, especially within the educational, health and social sector (Maldives);
- 139.169 Establish accessible monitoring and reporting mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence, against persons with disabilities in all settings, including all the types of institutions, paying special attention to women and children with disabilities (Mexico);
- 139.170 Take the necessary steps to ensure that children with disabilities are provided with reasonable accommodation at all levels of education, in line with international standards, and review the legal definition of inclusive education, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);
- 139.171 Take measures to facilitate access to health services for persons with disabilities (Algeria);
- 139.172 Ensure the integration of children with disabilities in the child rights strategy (Qatar);
- 139.173 Continue to protect persons with disabilities by enabling access to healthcare services (Senegal);
- 139.174 Continue with measures to improve the situation of persons with disabilities (Serbia);
- 139.175 Adopt a National Plan of Action or other measures that promote the integration of all minorities in society and respect for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity (Ecuador);
- 139.176 Continue its efforts to eradicate discrimination against minorities, including by campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for diversity (Romania);
- 139.177 Achieve progress in addressing any disparities including social and economic barriers faced by the minorities (Sri Lanka);
- 139.178 Ensure that migrant women have access to relevant information and victim support services (Croatia);
- 139.179 Facilitate the integration of migrants and persons under international protection residing in Cyprus, put in place alternatives to long-term detention of asylum seekers, including those whose request for asylum has been rejected, and ensure the rights of migrant workers who are domestic workers, particularly by protecting these workers from their employers (France);
- 139.180 Continue efforts to promote the working conditions of migrant workers, to better protect their rights, and to improve their integration in the society (Viet Nam);
- 139.181 Improve its legal mechanism to protect the human rights of the migrants, particularly unaccompanied migrant children (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 139.182 Continue to ensure the protection of the rights of migrants (Nigeria);
- 139.183 Ensure that effective measures are in place to identify as early as possible victims of torture and trafficking, and provide them with immediate rehabilitation and priority access to the asylum determination procedure (Azerbaijan);

139.184 Take effective measures to improve the situation and protection of asylum-seekers, in particular in order to advance their employment options and to tackle the increasing homelessness (Germany);

139.185 Strengthen its efforts to advance the protection of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrant workers by improving access to services and access to information on asylum procedures (Afghanistan);

139.186 Create a legal framework in the field of migration that guarantees the rights of all refugees and asylum seekers, as well as an effective legal and administrative framework for the elimination of discrimination for any reason, mainly by origin or race (Mexico);

139.187 Take the necessary measures, including the revision of the asylum detention policy, to ensure that the detention of asylum seekers is applied only as a measure of last resort, after alternatives to detention have been duly examined and exhausted and for as short a period as possible, in line with the recommendations of the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

139.188 Review the Refugee Law, its related policies and their implementation in order to ensure that all asylum seekers have adequate access to health services, education and economic security, including by aligning the official assistance provided to asylum seekers to the state's 'guaranteed minimum income' scheme (Sweden).

140. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Cyprus was headed by H.E. Ms. Leda KOURSOU MBA, Law Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. George KASOULIDES, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus, Geneva;
 - Ms. Andrea PETRANYI, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus, Geneva;
 - Ms. Natalia Andreou PANAYIOTOU, Administrative Officer A', Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance of the Republic of Cyprus;
 - Phanos KOUROUFEXIS, Minister's Associate, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance of the Republic of Cyprus;
 - Ms. Athina DIMITRIOU, Act. Senior Prison Officer Expert in custodial matters, Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus;
 - Mr. Costas VEIS, Superintendent B', Cyprus Police;
 - Ms. Eleni NEOCLEOUS, Administrative Officer, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus;
 - Dr Andreas TSIAKKIROS, Senior Education Planning Officer, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus;
 - Ms. Michaelia AVANI, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus, Geneva;
 - Ms. Maria SOLOGIANNI, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus, Geneva;
 - Ms. Christiana KOKTSIDOU, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus, Geneva.
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