



# General Assembly

## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 6

### Universal periodic review

## Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \*

### Cyprus

#### 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 Cyprus, 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 the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the 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 delegation stated that the national report had been 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 civil society organizations 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 had also been one of the first countries to undergo a voluntary national review on its implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. In line with its commitment to implementing Sustainable Development Goal 5, the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2018–2021) 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 Equality Unit of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order and the National Mechanism for Women's Rights played a leading role in the overall promotion of gender equality. A Commissioner for Gender Equality had been appointed to further advance

women's rights. The reform of the Family Law, with a view to its full harmonization with the international and European human rights instruments, was one of the Government's priorities.

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 the 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 most recent settlement efforts on the Cyprus question. In particular, the bi-communal Technical Committee on Gender Equality had been established to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and advise the formal peace process. The Commissioner for Gender Equality was also preparing the first national action plan on women, peace and security (2019–2022).

11. Cyprus had ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and was promoting a comprehensive legislative framework to prevent and combat violence against women and raise public awareness. Establishment of a "women's home" was under way to support the victims of violence and their families.

12. Concerning trafficking in persons, the Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings within the national police had been reinforced with specialized investigators. The legislative framework had also been reinforced. The Government cooperated with non-governmental organizations 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 Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and had enacted a comprehensive law to implement its provisions. Furthermore, Cyprus had adopted a National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography. Additionally, a "children's home" to support child victims and their families and a coordination committee to prevent and combat sexual abuse and exploitation of children had been 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 Sustainable Development Goal 4. Cyprus also aimed to ensure equal opportunities at all levels of education and an Action Plan for Gender Equality in Education (2018–2020) had been adopted. Furthermore, a National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in Schools had been developed.

15. With regard to the protection of children, Cyprus had launched the "baby's dowry" project, aimed at addressing poverty through the provision of basic material assistance to newborns 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. Migrant children were never detained.

16. Cyprus accorded 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) had been 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and had joined the Equal Rights Coalition. A Law on Civil Partnership of Same- or Opposite-sex Couples had been enacted and the Criminal Code had been amended, including homophobic motivation and gender identity as aggravating circumstances.

18. Cyprus put 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. 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 Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees. The Asylum Service had been reinforced with additional personnel and the reception conditions had improved. Additionally, asylum seekers had free access to health care, with priority granted to possible victims of torture.

21. Cyprus was in full compliance with the European Union *acquis* on the labour rights of migrants. Measures had been implemented, including a special mechanism for regular inspections of private employment agencies.

22. The Government had carried out a general prison reform based on a human-centred approach aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates.

23. Cyprus had successfully implemented a European Union-International Monetary Fund macroeconomic adjustment programme. The introduction of the guaranteed minimum income scheme had played a major role in improving poverty indicators.

24. The most serious obstacle to 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. In its jurisprudence, the European Court of Human Rights had 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 or 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 in its opening statement concerned areas under the effective control of the Government 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 for Gender Equality.

27. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the National Action Plan for Gender Equality and 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 action plans on gender equality and on the fight against domestic violence and gender discrimination in employment.

31. Algeria noted the measures taken to ratify the 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 commended the adoption of the new Action Plan for 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex 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 on combating domestic violence.

38. Bhutan noted the ratification of key international human rights instruments and commended Cyprus for taking a proactive role in promoting cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage.

39. Brazil commended the gender-sensitive approach of Cyprus 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 to address the destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage worldwide and in Europe, and appreciated the priority attached to the rights of children and persons with disabilities.

41. Canada welcomed the positive steps taken by Cyprus to advance gender equality, including creating a Strategic Action Plan for Gender Equality and a technical committee to implement the plan.

42. Chile acknowledged 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 the active implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and measures against destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage. It welcomed implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2018–2021).

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 carried out to implement the recommendations made during the previous review, including the updating of legislation, policies and national plans.

46. Denmark stated that indigenous peoples were among the most marginalized populations around the world, often facing discrimination and exploitative labour conditions, which violated their human rights.

47. The Dominican Republic appreciated the efforts made by Cyprus in 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 for Gender Equality (2018–2021).

50.El Salvador welcomed the completion of the voluntary national review for the 2030 Agenda, as well as the commitments undertaken by Cyprus to advance the Agenda's implementation.

51.Ethiopia commended Cyprus for actively promoting, regionally and internationally, the adoption of measures against the destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage.

52.Replying to questions and comments, the delegation of Cyprus stated that the Law Commissioner, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was monitoring progress in the implementation of the accepted universal periodic review recommendations. In implementing the recommendations, the Government held consultations with all competent services and civil society organizations and took into consideration their views.

53.Cyprus was strengthening its efforts to improve the working conditions of all non-European Union workers. Their terms of employment were the same as those provided in collective agreements. Cyprus had ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and had taken steps towards ratifying the ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), as its provisions were met by national law. Furthermore, the supervision of private employment agencies had been 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 had been suspended. In addition, non-European Union nationals residing in Cyprus were entitled to the same social security benefits as Cypriot nationals.

55.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 jobseekers who held 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 health-care 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. It had introduced 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 had been introduced with the deployment of additional personnel, offering cleaning, security and health services. A coordination mechanism had been established, which foresaw the participation of non-governmental organizations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

57.Detention of migrants was used as a measure of last resort, while 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 main focus of the integration policy was the inclusion of non-European Union nationals into society, for example through free Greek language courses and vocational training and awareness campaigns were conducted for the sensitization of the general public on the issue.

59.The national legislation concerning trafficking 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, legislation did not include discriminatory provisions against any ethnic group or non-European Union 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 applied for asylum, instead of six 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 had been streamlined to avoid 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 themselves.

62.France welcomed progress in combating gender discrimination in the workplace, the protection of asylum seekers and 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 Plan for Gender Equality and the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family. It also commended Cyprus for measures taken in favour of unaccompanied migrant children.

66.Honduras congratulated Cyprus on the adoption of the National Action Plan 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 dropout 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 National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family (2017–2019) and amendments to the Maternity Protection Law.
71. The Islamic Republic of 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 labourers.
72. Iraq commended efforts to bridge the gender pay gap.
73. Ireland welcomed the prioritization of women's rights and gender equality, and appreciated efforts to integrate migrants. Ireland was concerned about obstacles faced by particular groups in attaining Cypriot nationality.
74. Israel was encouraged by the progress achieved in improving gender equality, including a significant decrease in the gender pay gap. Israel welcomed the implementation of the National Action Plan against Human Trafficking.
75. Italy praised efforts to promote cultural rights and protect cultural heritage.
76. Jordan expressed appreciation for the commitment of Cyprus to uphold fundamental freedoms, as crystallized in the various legislative, constitutional and structural amendments.
77. Kuwait praised efforts to integrate human rights in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and commended efforts to ensure appropriate health care 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. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Cyprus on progress made in implementing the recommendations made in the previous review cycle, including with regard to the promotion of gender equality and the rights of women and children.
80. Lebanon commended the establishment of mechanisms for joining the main international human rights instruments and promoting the protection of vulnerable groups.
81. Malaysia commended progress made, especially in socioeconomic sectors, noting that despite those advancements prevailing challenges in the areas of poverty reduction, health care and education could be better addressed in order to improve living conditions.
82. Maldives welcomed the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and the national 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Cyprus.
84. Mexico recognized advances since the previous cycle, particularly the establishment of the Commissioner 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 the second review, despite challenges.
87. Nepal applauded the decision of Cyprus to assume a leading role and coordinate efforts within 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 reunification. It commended progress in the field of equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. The Netherlands remained concerned, however, about discrimination, particularly on the basis of racial and ethnic background. Further steps needed to be taken to ensure the non-discriminatory application of the law on obtaining nationality and to prevent statelessness.
89. Nicaragua made a recommendation.
90. Nigeria commended Cyprus for its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and for upholding human rights, and its efforts in implementing the previous recommendations. Nigeria acknowledged efforts in protecting the rights of migrants and combating human trafficking.
91. Oman recognized the efforts of Cyprus to promote and protect human rights, particularly cultural rights, to protect cultural heritage, to counter climate change, to promote gender equality and to prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

92. In replies to questions, the delegation of Cyprus stated that education in public schools was focused on tolerance and respect for other cultures. The Government continued its support for the Imagine Programme, which had been 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 discussed issues of stereotyping, discrimination and racism.

93. The Government had been striving to meet the educational needs of members of religious groups. The Department of Cultural Services promoted and protected the rights of religious groups. Separate funds had been reserved and dedicated to 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, provision of teachers, care assistants, educational resources, special equipment and assistive technology and the evaluation of the children's progress. Cyprus promoted the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream classrooms.

96. In order to remedy the problem of overcrowding in prisons, the Government had enacted legislation extending the possibilities for conditional release as well as the 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 pretrial 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 their individual needs, depending on their age and personal development, and they 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 personal hygiene products.

98. Inmates who could not bear the cost of proceedings were entitled to receive free legal aid. All visitors, including Turkish Cypriots, were required to comply with the applicable rules and standards regarding prison visits.

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 had been established to deal with inter-prisoner violence and bullying. There had also been positive developments, resulting in the absence of suicides in the past three 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. Police detention facilities had been significantly improved, resulting in advances in the quality of life of detainees and in their enjoyment of their rights. The Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (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 the Investigation of Allegations and Complaints 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. The most recently updated data indicated that 60 per cent of all cases resulted in a conviction, which translated 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 information technology companies had agreed with the European Union on a code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online.

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

104. Poland welcomed efforts to address women's rights and gender equality, as well as measures to combat gender discrimination in education. There was room for improvement, however, regarding support for 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 preparation of a first national action plan on women, peace and security.

107. The 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. The Republic of Moldova commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Istanbul Convention and the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

109. Romania welcomed the emphasis on promoting 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 2030 Agenda, 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 to 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 the voluntary national review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda 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 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the adoption of 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 Cyprus on progress made in combating violence against women and gender inequality and on 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 developments 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 on gender equality and the 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 Treaty of Guarantee of 1960.

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 Cyprus. Cyprus stated that it was imperative that all erroneous references, including non-United Nations terminology, be omitted from the record and the report of the Working Group meeting, and that Turkey cease the politicization of the process. Cyprus requested the President of the Human Rights Council to make a ruling to that 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 Council. He also 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 politicized the debate.

126.Turkey stated that there had been an increasing number of premeditated attacks and incidents perpetrated against Turkish Cypriots and that they had 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 of Cyprus towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including its first voluntary national 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.The United Arab Emirates stated that Cyprus played a leading role in the protection of cultural heritage.

130.The 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 of Turkish Cypriot children with one parent who was a non-Cypriot national.

131.The 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 a lack of resources and personal ties between the accused police officers and investigators.

132.The delegation of Cyprus recalled that almost all Turkish Cypriots, irrespective of where they lived, were holders of Cypriot birth certificates, identity documents and passports. The Government had 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 delegation of Cyprus stated that all the cases concerning the granting of Cypriot nationality were examined on humanitarian grounds. The Government of Cyprus was working towards a solution that respected the expectations of all Cypriots and would result in a functional federal State based on United Nations Security Council resolutions and the agreements of the leaders of the two communities, free from occupation armies, rights of intervention and guarantees. The delegation stated that the occupying Power had obligations.

135. Turkey, raising a point of order, recalled 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 delegations that points of order should be on procedural matters.

137. Cyprus confirmed and reaffirmed that the Government ensured the effective participation of Turkish Cypriots living in all the parts of Cyprus. The Government had also been ready to establish a Turkish-language school in Limassol but had encountered parental resistance out of fear that their children would be isolated or suffer discrimination.

138. In conclusion, Cyprus attributed great importance to the universal periodic review. The outcome of the review would contribute to further enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in Cyprus. The review process 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 Expedite 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, 1989 (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, 2011 (No. 189), 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 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 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 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Republic of Moldova) (Spain);**

**139.15 Ratify and implement in national legislation the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the**



**Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);**

**139.16 Intensify efforts in accomplishing ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 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 Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Togo);**

**139.21 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);**

**139.22 Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations 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 criminalizes 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 principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Germany); Make the necessary improvements so that the Commissioner 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 into 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 human rights training efforts at all levels of government and concerned agencies (France);**

**139.27 Continue to organize training programmes 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 of and education on human rights (Bhutan);**

**139.30 Continue its efforts for the further advancement of raising awareness of and education on human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

**139.31 Organize campaigns and educational programmes, including in schools, to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity (Romania);**

**139.32 Strengthen its efforts to safeguard and further advance human rights through raising awareness of 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 prosecuted effectively and that perpetrators are 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex 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 interreligious 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 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 serve 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 centres through institutional capacity-building and training of law enforcement officials (Lebanon);
- 139.66 Further strengthen 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 persons 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 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 the provision of health care, psychosocial services and other forms of necessary support to the victims of trafficking (Afghanistan);
- 139.73 Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons and protect women and children (Myanmar);
- 139.74 Take further measures in the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking (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 combating 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 of, assistance to 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 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 the 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 to freedom of expression is equally guaranteed and enjoyed by all of its citizens and community members, including those involved in intercommunal 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 equal treatment of all those applying for 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 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the European Convention on Nationality (Netherlands);

139.99 Take the necessary measures in order to eliminate from national legislation all provisions that restrict the rights of 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 Cypriot 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 time frame (United States of America);

139.102 Continue measures aimed at the 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 taking 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 of the rights of workers (Nepal);

139.107 Take concrete action to ensure greater human rights protection of foreign domestic workers, for example by 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 adequate powers to investigate the working conditions of domestic workers and strengthen the regulatory framework for private employment agencies (Slovenia);

139.110 Continue to take steps to improve the working conditions of all non-European Union 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 labour exploitation until the authorizations are provided (United States of America);

139.113 Continue implementing the strategy on health-care 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 the provision of health-care services provided by the public sector (Tunisia);

139.116 Improve the fulfilment 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 the education sector and address the challenges such as the low school attendance and school dropouts (India);
- 139.120 Continue its efforts to ensure 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 for 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 for 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 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's 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 in all 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 the 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 the representation of women in decision-making positions in 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 the 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, and 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 Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) for the implementation of the agenda on women and peace and security (El Salvador);

139.154 Adopt the national action plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and 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 interests of the child (El Salvador);

139.162 Continue its efforts to prevent and combat sexual abuse and exploitation of children, including 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 specialized court for juveniles and are separated from adults in detention facilities (Hungary);

139.165 Take measures to ensure that minors are tried by a specialized 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 sectors (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 health-care 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 vis-à-vis their employers (France);
- 139.180 Continue efforts to improve the working conditions of migrant workers, to better protect their rights and to improve their integration in society (Viet Nam);
- 139.181 Improve its legal mechanism to protect the human rights of 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 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 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**

[English Only]

### **Composition of the delegation**

The delegation of Cyprus was headed by H.E. Ms. Leda KOURSOMBA, 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 TSIAKKIROU, 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.