

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
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CZECH REPUBLIC

Madame President,

The delegation of the Republic of Cyprus welcomes the Czech Republic's presentation in the 2nd cycle recommendations.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the high degree of transparency and the active cooperation extended by the Czech Republic towards this important exercise.

During the implementation of the first UPR cycle, the Czech Republic demonstrated an increased domestic and international engagement in human rights issues. Cyprus welcomes the amendments made to the Czech Constitution, the adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Act, the increasing importance paid to the social integration of foreigners, the measures taken in combating racism and to strengthen protection and enforcement of individual rights and freedoms such as the introduction of the new Criminal Code, the support given to human rights defenders at home and abroad, and the great attention demonstrated to the protection of the rights of the child. In particular, we welcome the ratification of a number of international human rights conventions, protocols and treaties, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Cyprus commends the Czech commitment in assuring the equality of men and women as one of the fundamental elements of a democratic state and a free society. In this regard, we would like to ask the Delegation of the Czech Republic to elaborate on how it intends to decrease the number of disadvantaged positions in the labour market for women and to expand women's participation in policy and decision making processes.

Cyprus appreciates the efforts have been done by the Government of the Czech Republic to address the issue of domestic violence and rape. In this regard, we would like to ask the delegation about the access to legal aid for the victims of domestic violence and rape and their right to compensation.

My delegation would also like to express its acclamation for the involvement demonstrated by the Czech Republic in addressing the situation of socially excluded people belonging to the Roma community, through the Roma Integration Policy Concept for 2010-2013. Considering the Czech statement of regret for the identified individual cases of Roma women whose sterilization procedures were not consistent with the applicable regulations, Cyprus welcomes the measures undertaken to prevent such cases and the new Act on Specific Medical Services.

I thank you Madame President.