

Cyprus  
**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**22 October – 5 November 2012**

General Assembly  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**GHANA**

Madame President,

The delegation of the Republic of Cyprus welcomes Ghana's participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and its national report on the progress made concerning the implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle recommendations.

We have studied the report and we would like to acknowledge the positive steps taken by the Government of Ghana aimed at successfully achieving many of its Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as well as the achievement of universal primary education.

The treatment of persons with disabilities remains a key challenge in the Ghanaian society. We commend the Government on the recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We would like to know more about any specific follow-up on this ratification, and especially related to the adoption of specific laws and national programmes and strategies in this particular area.

We have particularly appreciated the work of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) through the high percentage in resolving individual complaints as well as the development of awareness-raising programmes and sensitization campaigns. We recommend that the Government of Ghana works to ensure that the Commission continues to address human rights issues in an independent and impartial manner.

In the area of women's rights, positive steps have been taken by the Government of Ghana to combat domestic violence through the establishment of the Domestic Violence Secretariat, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Police Service, and the Gender-Based Violence Court. We note the Government's efforts to combat harmful and discriminating social and cultural practices against women and girls by reforming the Criminal Offences Act and by engaging with all relevant stakeholders.

Finally, we would like to commend Ghana's commitment to fight HIV/AIDS and to address the negative impact of HIV-related stigma and discrimination through its National HIV & AIDS Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and the numerous plans and programmes, which complement it. We encourage the Government of Ghana to continue its efforts to combat Mother-to-Child Transmission with the establishment of PMTCT sites in peri-urban and rural areas.

I thank you Madame President