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NEW VERSION

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Mr. George
Yiangou

ZAMBIA

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

At the outset, we would like to welcome the new constitutional making process in Zambia, and the government's commitment to respect and include all views in Zambian society and to deliver and sustain good governance and the rule of law.

We acknowledge the positive steps taken by the government of Zambia in the field of education, through the enactment of the recent Education Law of 2011, which provides for free basic education for all without discrimination. Review of the educational system should remain a key priority for the government. Addressing the educational problems, particularly in rural areas, concerning poor school infrastructures, high levels of school dropouts, and accessibility by children with disabilities needs to remain high in the government's agenda.

We have particularly appreciated the adoption of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act of 2011, which institutionalizes a victim-oriented approach through the establishment of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Committee and the Anti-Gender Based Violence Fund. We also welcome the launching of the National Guidelines for the Multi-discipline Management of Survivors of Gender based Violence and we encourage the government of Zambia to redouble its efforts for the protection of women's rights as well as their access to justice, and for the development of training programmes for the judiciary, law enforcement personnel, as well as health-service providers.

Finally, as far as the area of the rights of the child is concerned, we note the government's engagement in the fight against human trafficking and the commercial exploitation of children, including prostitution. We call upon the government of Zambia to step up its efforts towards the full implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2008, and to consider ratifying the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you.