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FRANCE

Mister President,

The Republic of Cyprus welcomes France's participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the UPR and the country's national report on the progress made concerning the implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle recommendations.

At the outset, my Delegation would like to commend France for its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. We particularly welcome France's engagement to the worldwide dissemination of the right of any person not to be subjected to enforced disappearance.

Having studied the French National Report, we note with satisfaction the high emphasis devoted to Women's Rights, including initiatives to combat all forms of violence against women. In this regard, the Republic of Cyprus welcomes in particular the establishment of a National Observatory of Violence against Women by the Ministry for Women's Affairs. Such an institution, we believe, sets the direction of long-term policies that will facilitate identification of violence against women, better organization for prevention of such cases as well as more efficient protection and support for the victims.

In concluding, my Delegation would like to pose the following question: How does the French Government cope with those cases involving violence against women, whereby female victims do not wish to, or cannot, cooperate with the authorities?

I thank you Mister President.