

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
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BANGLADESH

Mister President,

The Republic of Cyprus would like to welcome Bangladesh's participation in the 2nd cycle of the UPR Working Group and thank the Bangladeshi Government for the preparation of a National Report covering the main issues at stake.

At the outset, Cyprus wishes to congratulate the Government of Bangladesh for the positive steps it has taken towards enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We particularly acknowledge the efforts made to protect the human rights of women, including the schemes for the better integration of women in the labour market and the initiative to prevent violence against women. In this regard, Cyprus notes with satisfaction the adoption in 2011 of the National Women Development Policy.

Furthermore, we welcome Bangladesh's ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and of the the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, we remain concerned about continuing reports on large scale police brutality, often resulting to deaths of people in custody, while abusive security forces might be shielded from accountability. While Cyprus commends the Bangladeshi Government's public engagement to maintain its "Zero Tolerance" policy towards violation of human rights by Law Enforcing Agencies, more should be done to ensure the full investigation of such allegations and the prosecution of those persons responsible.

We, therefore, recommend:

The undertaking of further steps to effectively investigate alleged human rights violations by Law Enforcing Agencies and to bring to justice police or other security personnel who were allegedly engaged in acts of brutality and torture.

I thank you Mister President.