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CAMEROON

Mister President,

The Republic of Cyprus would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Cameroon to Geneva, headed by [*head of delegation*]. We recognize and commend the commitment of the Government of Cameroon to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as for its constructive engagement in the UPR Working Group.

We are pleased by the positive progress achieved by Cameroon since the first cycle of the UPR, including in relation to non-discrimination (for instance with regard to persons living with disabilities) and its willingness to cooperate with UN human rights treaty bodies and special procedures. Cyprus also acknowledges the fact that the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms undertakes visits to detention centers and prisons in order to check on alleged human right abuses.

Further, Cyprus wishes to welcome Cameroon's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

However, we remain concerned by alleged violations of the rights to freedom of expression and association. We, therefore, urge greater attention be paid to the protection of human rights of people engaged in peaceful political activities.

We are also worried by reports of international organisations about the continuation of the practice of female excision and circumcision in certain provinces of Cameroon. Whilst understanding that the ending of this practice, *inter alia*, requires community-based solutions, so as the abandonment of deeply held attitudes underlying Female Genital Mutilation gain acceptance at the grass-root level, a high-level political commitment is also imperative.

Cyprus, therefore, recommends:

That Cameroon ensures the full implementation of the National Action Plan on Female Genital Mutilation, and enacts the law criminalizing this practice that had been proposed in the revision of the Penal Code two years ago.

I thank you Mister President.