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CUBA

Mister President,

The Republic of Cyprus wishes to thank [*head of delegation*] and the rest of the members of the Cuban delegation for the presentation of their National Report and welcome them to this session of the second-UPR cycle.

At the outset, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Government of Cuba towards this important exercise. We also believe that the work carried out by Cuba concerning the recommendations from its last review in 2009 should be acknowledged, including the acceptance of recommendations as regards the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms, the death penalty, cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, and last but certainly not least the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

A number of challenges, of course, do remain. One such issue, upon which my delegation wishes to focus, is that of the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. In this regard, Cyprus would like to ask the Cuban delegation to elaborate on the provisions of the Regulations on Employment of Persons with Disabilities which had been adopted in 2011 and give details as to whether these have led to an improvement of the employment status of the disabled.

Cyprus has the following recommendations:

1. Effectively achieve greater access to employment for women with disabilities.
2. Continue taking all necessary measures to avoid incidents of violations of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

I thank you Mr. President.