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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mister President,

The Republic of Cyprus wishes to thank H.E. Minister of Justice, Mr. Konovalov, and the rest of the members of the Russian delegation for the presentation of their National Report and welcome them to this session of the second-UPR cycle.

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Russian Government towards this important exercise and we are of the opinion that the work carried out by Russia concerning the recommendations from its last review in 2009 should be fully acknowledged.

Cyprus takes note of the continuing efforts of the Russian Government to strengthen the national foundations for the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the Russian Federation. Further, we would like to welcome Russia's ratification of a number of international treaties which contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the European Social Charter and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

My delegation acknowledges the steps taken by the Russian authorities to prevent violence in the family, including the establishment of a working group with the mandate to draft a pertinent federal bill. Nonetheless, it has been reported that violence in the family, especially against women, continues to be widespread. We, thus, encourage Russia to continue on the course of adopting a comprehensive strategy, including the adoption of specific legislation, to combat domestic violence. We would also urge Russia, where such cases do occur, to improve women's access to safe shelters and other facilities.

Cyprus also looks positively on the Russian endeavors to combat trafficking in persons, in accordance with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the related Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In this context, we would be interested to receive more information on the results of the work done so far in Russia in this field.

I thank you Mr. President.