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CYPRUS under 18th session UPR
(Geneva, 27.01 - 07.02.2014)

Intervention by Greece

Thank you Mr. President,

Greece would like to very warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, headed by H.E. the Law Commissioner of the Republic, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, to the 18th session of UPR Working Group. We thank them for an indeed informative presentation and for the fact that Cyprus has implemented the overpowering majority of the recommendations of the first review which is a clear manifestation of Cyprus' steadfast commitment to human rights.

As a first general remark, we wish to note that Cyprus, undeniably, has in place all the features that are essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, such as the rule of law and an independent judiciary, a well-structured apparatus for monitoring human rights and other forms of accountability, recognition of vulnerable groups and individuals, and many more.

Cyprus should, also, continue its unwavering support to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus in implementing its important humanitarian mandate which also involves Greek citizens.

We commend Cyprus, *inter alia*, for managing, in successive years now, to close the gender pay gap; for maintaining the rate of the benefits provided by the Cyprus' Social Insurance Scheme above the minimum standards set by the European Code of Social Security and Convention 102 of the ILO, even more so in the midst of the financial crisis; for its collaborative efforts aimed at public officers receiving specialised anti-trafficking training on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking; for ensuring that appropriate mechanisms and procedures are in place to facilitate impartial investigation in allegations of police misconduct. We kindly ask the delegation to elaborate further on the above issues and to give us concrete data both on the pay gap reduction and on the financial assistance to victims of trafficking.

Greece would like to make the following two recommendations:

1. We **recommend** that Cyprus continues to pursue the reduction of the gender pay gap.
2. We **recommend** that Cyprus persists with its noteworthy efforts to combat trafficking through national and international collaboration.