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Statement by Hungary on Cyprus, UPR Session 18, 4 February 2014

Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation from Cyprus to this UPR and thanks the Government for the thorough national report prepared with the involvement of non-governmental organizations, *noting meanwhile, that civil society could have been consulted more widely during the drafting of the report.*

We commend Cyprus for its efforts to implement previous UPR recommendations and to advance human rights even in the difficult circumstances of the economic crisis and the continued political and territorial division of the island. My delegation appreciates in particular the Government's commitment to develop closer cooperation with Treaty Bodies as well as to meet its international obligations, including the timely submission of its national reports.

My delegation welcomes the appointment of the Ombudsman *as the National Human Rights Institution* with extensive competences for the promotion and protection of human rights, and is confident that the ongoing ICC accreditation procedure will confirm its compliance with the Paris Principles.

Hungary takes note of the recommendations issued by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the situation of minorities and **recommends the Government to step up efforts to combat and sanction effectively all forms of discrimination and intolerance, as well as to take additional measures to provide a more adequate response and the required support to the educational needs of the minorities.**

Hungary welcomes the steps taken by Cyprus to address trafficking in human beings *and encourages the Government to keep on combating this phenomenon, especially as regards trafficking in women.* We appreciate that the new national action plan takes into account the EU Directive on trafficking and hope that this will lead to the Directive's effective implementation. **Could the delegation inform us on any concrete plans to improve cooperation in this field with international organizations and other countries?**

Finally, we note that Cyprus has not yet signed the Convention for the Reduction of Statelessness, an instrument we consider key in ensuring the protection of human rights and the wellbeing of stateless persons and their families worldwide. **We therefore recommend to Cyprus its signature and ratification.**

Thank you Mr President