



18th Session of the Working group of the Universal Periodic Review
Cyprus

Mr. President,

We cordially welcome the delegation of Cyprus, headed by Mrs. Leda Kaursumba and wishes to thank them for the presentation of the National Report.

Serbia commends the work carried out by Cyprus with regard to the implementation of the recommendations from the last review cycle. This demonstrates the dedication of Cyprus to the cause of human rights and leave us assured of its full compliance with international human rights standards.

We note with satisfaction the positive developments in Cyprus with regard to the normative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights, such as the ratification of CRPD, OP CRC and OPCAT, as well as ongoing strengthening of the independent national human rights institutions.

Mr. President,

In its 2013 report, the OHCHR refers, *inter alia*, to a deplorable condition of more than 100 churches, chapels and monasteries in the northern part of Cyprus. In this regard, we would like to underline the need for restoration of heritage sites, repossession of church property and protection of memorials. This is an essential element for reconciliation and the respect of human rights of all people, irrespective of their ethnicity.

In this context, we extend our support for further cooperation with OHCHR and visits by special procedure mandate holders, in particular with regard to IDPs, cultural rights, enforced or involuntary disappearances and the right to education.

Thank you Mr. President