

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - 21st Session, 27 October - 7 November 2014**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**

Mr. President,

Allow me to welcome the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 2nd cycle of the UPR and to thank H.E. Dr. Mohamed Javad Larijani for his presentation of the national report on progress made concerning the implementation of the 1st cycle recommendations.

Cyprus wishes to seize this opportunity to commend the measures that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken to implement its international human rights obligations. In particular, we welcome the designation of a National Focal Point for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as, the appointment of a Special Assistant to the President for Ethnic Groups and Religious Minorities.

Cyprus would like also to acknowledge the recent establishment of the Office of Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs by the Iranian Government.

In this same vein, we encourage the Government of Iran to strengthen its efforts to ensure the functionality of the monitoring and reporting mechanisms in respect of violations of children's rights.

Finally, we recommend that the Government of Iran considers abolishing the Death Penalty and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at its earliest convenience.

Thank you Mr. President