

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

21st Session

27 October - 7 November 2014

ITALY

Mr. President,

The Republic of Cyprus welcomes Italy's participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the UPR and the country's national report on the progress made concerning the implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle recommendations.

Cyprus wishes to commend the measures that the Government of Italy has taken to implement its international human rights obligations in the field of human rights. We particularly welcome the initiatives undertaken by Italy for the promotion of women's and children's rights as well as measures taken for the elimination of discrimination in all its forms.

As a country faced with the same challenges in this field, Cyprus would like to acknowledge and very much welcome Italy's far-reaching efforts to save lives at sea as well as the launch of the Mare Nostrum operation. Moreover, the Republic of Cyprus wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Italian authorities for their close collaboration in dealing with the complex issue of migration in the Mediterranean basin.

Finally, Cyprus has one recommendation to make for the consideration of the Government of Italy, namely that its authorities continue to intensify their ongoing efforts to strengthen women's representation in leadership roles and decision-making positions.

I thank you Mr. President.