

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - 21st Session, 19 - 30 January 2015

*Statement by the Republic of Cyprus on*

***Spain***

Mr. President,

We would like to join the voice of this delegation to those who have welcomed the Spanish delegation and to thank H.E. the Deputy Minister for a comprehensive introductory statement on 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 Spain has taken to meet its international human rights obligations. In particular, we welcome initiatives undertaken to combat human trafficking, such as the establishment of the post of National Rapporteur in June 2012, as well as measures taken for the elimination of discrimination in all its forms.

As a Mediterranean country faced with similar challenges in many respects, Cyprus would in particular like to acknowledge and very much welcome Spain's far-reaching efforts to tackle racism and xenophobia and to facilitate the smooth integration of immigrants. In this context, the adoption of the Second Strategic Plan on Citizenship and Integration (2011-2014) – tied to a financial instrument - has been of critical importance

Finally, Cyprus has one recommendation to make for the consideration of the Spanish authorities, namely that they intensify their efforts to further improve the situation concerning the protection of rights of persons with disabilities.

I thank you.