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Statement by the Republic of Cyprus on

United States of America

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the United States delegation led by H.E. Ambassador Keith Hamper and commends its authorities for the comprehensive national report submitted, as well as for the openness of its presentation before us today.

We note with satisfaction the detailed information contained in the report, outlining positive steps taken towards the implementation of a significant number of 1st Cycle recommendations, pertaining to important issues such as the rights of indigenous peoples, efforts to eradicate homelessness and to combat human trafficking.

Cyprus **recommends** that the US government:

- takes concrete steps towards ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as early as possible, and
- with regard to capital punishment, considers as a first step the application of a moratorium on executions, both at a State and Federal level, with a view to ultimately abolishing the death penalty.

I thank you.