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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus**

**Geneva**

*V. Konnari*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**14 November 2023, 14:30-18:00**

**Universal Periodic Review**

**44th Session**

***CAMEROON***

Mr President,

Cyprus would like to thank the delegation from Cameroon for the presentation of their National Report and welcome them to this 44th session of the UPR.

We recognise the efforts of the Government of Cameroon to improve the human rights situation in the country and implement the recommendations of the 2018 UPR process, in particular the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention to the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Cyprus has the following recommendations:

* Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
* End impunity and ensure accountability by prosecuting and punishing those responsible of human rights violations perpetrated by security forces and non-State armed groups.
* Take all necessary measures to protect and enable human rights’ defenders, journalists and other members of the civil society to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal, and free of all restrictions.

Thank you, Mr President.