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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus**

**Geneva**

*Amb. O. Neocleous*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

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

**Universal Periodic Review**

**44th Session**

**Colombia**

President,

Cyprus welcomes Colombia’s participation at today’s UPR and expresses its appreciation for its report.

We commend Colombia’s commitment to respect, to protect and to fulfil human rights. We welcome the country’s engagement with the HRC, in particular its request for technical assistance in the field of human rights to advance the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement.

Cyprus welcomes the endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration in 2022, as well as the fact that a bill for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture is under examination.

Cyprus would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD);
2. Intensify efforts to ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to justice, and medical and psychosocial services;
3. Take measures to reduce the country’s high maternal mortality rates.

Thank you.