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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus**

**Geneva**

*V. Konnari*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**15 November 2023, 09:00-12:00**

**Universal Periodic Review**

**44th Session**

***CUBA***

Mr President,

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

We commend Cuba’s more active engagement and cooperation with UN human rights bodies as well as the efforts undertaken by the Government of Cuba to implement the recommendations from the last review. We believe that the adoption of the new Constitution in 2019 that has strengthened the legal-institutional human rights framework through a participatory process should be acknowledged as a positive step in this direction. We encourage Cuba to continue its reform process in accordance with international human rights standards.

Cyprus has the following recommendations for the Cuban authorities:

* Adoption of a comprehensive strategy to improve the protection and care of victims of gender-based violence
* Incorporation and harmonization of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into national law in order to ensure and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.
* Continue with the implementation of the Family Code and operationalize the Family Ombudsman’s Office that was established in 2023.
* Establish the necessary legal framework and procedures including strengthening the capacity of judicial officials to prosecute trafficking cases, whilst at the same time protecting victims and witnesses.

Thank you, Mr President.