UPR 46, April 30

1min 15 seconds

**CYPRUS**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada congratulates Cyprus on appointing a Commissioner for Gender Equality to further advance women’s rights.

Canada recommends that Cyprus:

1. Take targeted measures to promote a greater gender balance in government decision-making at all levels.
2. Strengthen intercommunal dialogue mechanisms and increase the participation of women in senior negotiator roles.
3. Take measures to enhance its capacity to manage the hosting of asylum seekers and refugees. This includes providing adequate and secure safe shelter for women and children.

**Observations**

Canada notes the persisting gender gap in Cyprus. Cyprus ranks 21st out of 27 EU Member States on the 2023 Gender Equality Index. There is severe overcrowding in the Pournara First Reception Centre, where the safety of women and children asylum seekers should be paramount.