

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**Closing Statement by**

**H.E. the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**

 **Mr. Andreas Kakouris**

**at the 46th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, Tuesday, 30 April 2024**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

Mr. Vice President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This concludes the interventions by the members of my Delegation.

I wish to thank all Delegations for their active participation, their questions, feedback and constructive comments and recommendations. I hope we have been able to give as many answers, clarifications and explanations as possible in the limited amount of time allotted.

It has been a positive and important exercise. Many interesting points have been raised throughout the session. We have heard your concerns regarding asylum seekers and migrants, trafficking in human beings and gender-based violence. We acknowledge the challenges and we recognize that there is always room for improvement. We remain focused to our political commitment in applying a human-centered approach to our policies and in striving to combat all forms of discrimination, to close gender equality gaps and to uphold the rights of the child and persons in vulnerable situations.

We consider the recommendations provided, not only during this session, but also recommendations submitted to us by the Treaty Bodies, as an invaluable tool towards accelerating our work in protecting and promoting human rights in Cyprus. We will carefully consider all the recommendations and as we have done in the past, we do hope we will be able to accept as many as possible.

Allow me to lastly express my appreciation to You Mr. Vice President for guiding us through this very constructive session. My delegation’s thanks go also to the Secretariat officers, as well as the interpreters.

I thank you.