**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus**

**Wednesday, 20 January 2021, 09.00-12.30**

Ms. Andrea Petranyi

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**37th Session**

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

Madam President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Australian delegation at today’s UPR, as well as for the presentation of its Report.

Cyprus commends Australia for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. We welcome the concrete measures implemented since its last UPR, including ratifying OP-CAT, withdrawing the reservation to CEDAW relating to the exclusion of women from combat duties and establishing the Standing National Human Rights Mechanism.

Cyprus would like to offer the following recommendations:

* Ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR;
* Accede to the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
* Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14.

Thank you.