**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus**

**Christos Makriyiannis**

**Tuesday, 25 January 2021, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**37th Session**

**Rwanda**

Madam President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Delegation from Rwanda at today’s UPR, as well as the presentation of its Report.

Cyprus notes the progress made by Rwanda since its last review, including the adoption of relevant legislation in order to improve gender equality and empower women, as well as strengthening the policy framework regarding the freedom of expression.

Cyprus would like to make the following recommendations to Rwanda:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention of Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, as well as the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
2. Investigate cases of extrajudicial arrests, unlawful detentions and arbitrary executions;
3. Eradicate child sexual exploitation and abuse by strengthening relevant legislation and establishing appropriate monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
4. Increase school enrolment;
5. Take steps with the view of prohibiting early and forced marriage.

Thank you.