**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus**

**Wednesday, 5 May 2021, 09.00-12.30**

Ms. Andrea Petranyi

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**38th Session**

**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

Madam President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Belgian delegation and the presentation of its Report at today’s UPR.

Cyprus commends Belgium for its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. Implementing reforms aimed at improving conditions in detention, in particular by reducing overcrowding in the penitentiary system, is an important step towards this end. We encourage these efforts to continue.

Cyprus recommends:

* Ratify the OP-CAT, without further delays and without any reservations;
* intensify ongoing efforts to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities;
* Ensure that combatting gender-based violence remains a key priority.

Thank you.