**H.E. Ms. Olympia Neocleous, Permanent Representative**

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**Wednesday, 10 November 2021, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**39th Session**

**IRELAND**

Madam President,

Cyprus welcomes the delegation from Ireland and the presentation of its report.

Cyprus commends Ireland for its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. In particular, the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and its transposition into the third National Strategy is a significant step towards combating sexual and gender-based violence. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment)   
Bill of 2021 is also significant in recognising that persons in vulnerable situations are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Cyprus recommends:

1. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman Or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
2. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on   
   Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
3. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
4. Exert further efforts to decrease the gender pay gap.

Thank you, Madam President.