**Ambassador O. Neocleous**

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**Wednesday, 27 January 2022, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**40th Session**

**TIMOR-LESTE**

Mr. President,

Cyprus wishes to welcome the participation of the delegation from Timor-Leste and for the presentation of its report.

Cyprus commends Timor-Leste for the significant strides taken since its second UPR cycle, notably in strengthening the participation of women in political life and decision-making positions, as well as its efforts to combat and prevent trafficking in persons, to name a few.

Cyprus would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT);
2. Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights;
4. Integrate a rights-based approach in climate mitigation policy and disaster risk reduction plans;
5. Take measures to ease access to justice, including for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

We wish Timor-Leste every success.

Thank you, Mr. President.