**Intervention by Cyprus**

**Friday, 28 January 2022**

**Mr. Christos MAKRIYIANNIS**

**First Secretary**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**40th Session**

**Republic of Moldova**

Mr. President,

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

Cyprus notes Moldova’s progress since its last review, including by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Cyprus makes the following recommendations:

1. Intensify efforts to protect the rights of persons belonging to minority groups, together with ethnic and religious groups, including Jews;
2. Implement legislative measures aiming at preventing discrimination against LGBTQI persons;
3. Take further steps to allow greater scope of engagement with civil society organisations, particularly in the field of promoting human rights;
4. Take necessary measures to strengthen media freedom and the protection of journalists.

Thank you.