**Intervention by Cyprus**

**Ambassador Olympia Neoclous**

**Thursday, 10 November 2022, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**41st Session**

**INDIA**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the delegation from India and for the presentation of its report.

Cyprus commends India for the progress since the last UPR cycle, including the significant strides in poverty reduction, and as regards water and sanitation. The Supreme Court’s 2018 decriminalisation of consensual adult same-sex relationships was a major step in mitigating discrimination.

Cyprus wishes to recommend:

* Ratify the first and second Optional Protocols to the ICCPR and the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR;
* Enhance legal provisions combating discrimination against women and girls;
* Continue efforts to effectively enforce environmental policies;
* Organize campaigns and educational programmes, to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity.

Thank you.