**Intervention by Cyprus**

**(Andrea Petranyi)**

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Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the delegation and the presentation of its report.

The recent ratification of the *Istanbul Convention* is a significant step towards combating sexual and gender-based violence, together with the new Domestic Abuse Act. Cyprus also welcomes the UK’s ratification of the 1954 *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*. We also look towards the UK retaining the *Human Rights Act 1998*.

Cyprus wishes to make the following recommendations:

* Ratify the first Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR;
* Ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
* Commit to continued domestic incorporation of ECHR rights and provisions;
* Ensure that all new legislation remains in line with the UK’s international human rights obligations.

Thank you.