**Intervention by Cyprus**

***Ambassador Neocleous***

**Tuesday, 15 November 2022, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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**THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

Mr. President,

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

Cyprus notes with satisfaction the Netherlands’ strong commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, and commends its authorities for the concrete measures it has undertaken since the previous review, including the appointment of a National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism, and the formulation of guidelines for a more gender-sensitive approach to domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Cyprus wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the optional protocols to the ICESCR and the CRPD, as well as the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure of the CRC;
2. Monitor the effectiveness of recent measures taken to address racial discrimination and bias in law, policy and practice;
3. Bring the legal definition of rape in line with international human rights law, including the Istanbul Convention in all four constituent countries;
4. Implement the guidelines for a more gender-sensitive approach to domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Thank you.