**Intervention by Cyprus**

***Giorgos Samouel***

**Wednesday, 16 November 2022, 09:00-12:30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**41st Session**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the South African delegation and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of its report.

Cyprus commends South Africa for the progress since its last UPR, including its Cabinet’s approval of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, the adoption of legislation related to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, and the ratification of OP-CAT.

Cyprus wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Monitor implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide;
2. Ensure the Equality Courts are accessible in rural areas;
3. Provide HRDs with a safe and secure environment to carry out their work;
4. Amend legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility in accordance with international standards;
5. Organize campaigns and educational programmes, to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity.

Thank you.