*A. Petranyi*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**DPR, A. Petranyi**

**Monday, 23 January 2023, 09.00-12.30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**42nd Session**

**Czech Republic**

Mr. Vice-President,

Cyprus welcomes Czechia’s participation at today’s UPR and for the presentation of its report.

Cyprus congratulates the Czech Republic on its progress since its last review. We commend the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the new Strategy of Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2021-2030, as well as the considerable efforts by the Government to combat human trafficking, specifically cooperating internationally and successfully arresting members of large human trafficking rings.

Cyprus recommends:

1. Ratify the Istanbul Convention, as well as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
2. Take the necessary steps to ensure the Ombudsperson takes on the role of national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles
3. Proscribe in law the prohibition of all forms of violence, including corporal punishment, in education settings;
4. Continue efforts to increase school attendance of Roma children and eradicate discrimination against them in schools.

Thank you.