*A. Petranyi*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**Ambassador/PR Ms. Olympia Neocleous**

**Tuesday, 24 January 2022, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**42nd Session**

**REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

Mr. President,

Cyprus wishes to welcome the participation of the Ghanaian delegation and for the presentation of its report.

We acknowledge the efforts by Ghana since its third UPR cycle, notably in the passage of laws such as the Witness Act, the Right to Information Act, as steps taken to close “witch camps”, as well as combatting trafficking in persons.

Cyprus would like to recommend:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights;
2. Intensify efforts to commute death sentences to lesser punishment or full pardons;
3. Carry out awareness-raising campaigns to combat negative attitudes against persons with disabilities;
4. Reinforce policies to effectively combat trafficking in persons.

Thank you, Mr. President.