*Amb. O. Neocleous*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**27 January 2023, 09:00-12:30**

**Universal Periodic Review**

**42nd Session**

**Switzerland**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of Switzerland in the 4th UPR cycle and expresses its appreciation for its report.

Cyprus congratulates Switzerland on its progress since its last review. Towards this end, the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, as well as the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, are pertinent steps in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Cyprus recommends:

1. Increase the funding available to the National Human Rights Institution to ensure its independence and compliance with the Paris Principles;
2. End all discriminatory treatment of conscientious objectors who opt for alternative civilian service;
3. Continue to promote increased women’s representation at all levels of public administration;
4. Intensify efforts to ensure gender equality.

Thank you.

*G. Samouel*