*A. Petranyi*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

**Monday, 30 January 2022, 09.00-12.30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**42nd Session**

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Pakistani delegation at today’s UPR.

Cyprus welcomes the *de facto* moratorium on executions, and strongly encourages the Government to ensure that it will *not* be lifted. We commend efforts in advancing women’s rights and steps taken to combat trafficking in persons, and look towards further apt steps to this end.

Cyprus recommends:

1. Accede to the Rome Statue of the ICC;
2. Ratify the Optional Protocols to CAT, CRPD and CEDAW;
3. Reduce the amount of capital crimes and formalise the *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty;
4. Establish key protections during arrest, detention and custody for all individuals;
5. Strengthen the independence of the national human rights institutions;
6. Intensify efforts aimed at efficiently safeguarding freedom of expression;
7. Organize campaigns and educational programmes, to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity.

Thank you.