*G. Samouel*

**Intervention by Cyprus**

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

**Universal Periodic Review**

**42nd Session**

**Japan**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the delegation of Japan at today’s UPR and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of its comprehensive national report.

Cyprus welcomes Japan’s ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as the formulation of the 5th Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Amended Act for Implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Cyprus recommends:

1. Ratify the first Optional protocol to the ICCPR;
2. Reduce the number of capital crimes, with a view to implementing a moratorium on the death penalty;
3. Exert effort to commence enhancing legal provisions combating discrimination against women and girls;
4. Step up efforts to combat human trafficking, including efforts to bring perpetrators of child trafficking to justice and increasing the penalties for child trafficking.

Thank you.