*Andrea Petranyi*

**Intervention by Ambassador O. Neocleous**

**Wednesday, 10 May 2023, 09:00-12:30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**43rd Session**

**SERBIA**

Mr. Vice-President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the delegation and wishes to express its deepest condolences.

Cyprus commends Serbia for the progress undertaken since its last review, including the national Human Rights Institution conforming with the Paris Principles, the implementation of the 2021-2025 Strategy for Preventing and Combatting Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, as well as the 2022-2026 Strategy on Deinstitutionalization and Development of Community-Based Services.

Cyprus makes the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;
2. To prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence, collect disaggregated data on all forms of violence, including in cases of femicide;
3. Continue efforts with the aim to adopt a comprehensive law on rights of the child and establish an office of an Ombudsman for Children;
4. Proscribe in law the prohibition of corporal punishment in education settings.

Thank you.