**Universal Periodic Review 29th session / 15-26 January 2018**

*Statement by the Republic of Cyprus in the review of*

*Romania*

Mr. Vice President,

Cyprus joins previous speakers in welcoming the distinguished delegation of Romania and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of the comprehensive national report.

We note with satisfaction the criminalisation in the new Criminal Code of all offences relating to human trafficking and exploitation and wish to commend the Romanian authorities for concrete actions they have undertaken — particularly in the fields of education, health and access to the labour market — aimed at improving the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma community.

We encourage Romania to continue with the same determination its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, including through the adoption of a dedicated national strategy.

Cyprus recommends that the Romanian authorities:

1. ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and
2. pursue all necessary steps with the aim of establishing an ombudsperson for children’s rights.

I thank you.