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

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

*Burundi*

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of Burundi to the 3rd cycle of the UPR.

Whilst noting the ratification since the last review of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, we remain deeply concerned by the grave human rights situation in the country since 2015, as this has been documented by HRC mandate-holders and mechanisms and most notably by the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi in August 2017 [A/HRC/36/54].

Cyprus recommends that the Burundian authorities:

1. allow OHCHR to resume its documentation of human rights violations in the country,
2. implement recent recommendations of treaty bodies,
3. reconsider their decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute and cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court in the ongoing investigation, and
4. ensure that members of the country’s defence and security forces respect human rights under all circumstances.

I thank you.