

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**32nd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 29 January 2019**

**German questions and recommendations to**

**The Republic of Cyprus**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Germany welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to the third cycle of the UPR. We commend the Government of Cyprus for its constructive engagement with the mechanisms of the Council and appreciate the efforts undertaken to implement the recommendations given in the second cycle of the UPR.

We also commend the progress accomplished with regards to strengthening the combat against human trafficking. Furthermore, we welcome the Government’s sustained efforts to promote and protect women’s rights, including the ratification of the Council of Europe “Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence” (“Istanbul Convention”) and the adoption of the third action plan for gender equality 2018-2021.

Germany is concerned about the increasing homelessness among asylum-seekers, as well as about Cyprus’ current approach to processing applications for the Cypriot nationality which by some groups is perceived as discriminatory, including by Turkish Cypriots. In this context, Germany would like to offer the following recommendations to the Government of Cyprus:

1. Take effective measures to improve the situation and protection of asylum-seekers, in particular in order to advance their employment options and to tackle the increasing homelessness.
2. Ensure an equal treatment of all those applying for the Cypriot nationality.
3. Take the necessary steps to bring the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights fully into compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the so-called “Paris Principles”).

Thank you, Mr. President.

Advance Questions:

* How does the Government of Cyprus intend to address the growing challenge of homelessness among asylum seekers?
* What measures has the Government of Cyprus undertaken to ensure the non-discriminatory application of the law regulating the Cypriot nationality towards all applicants?
* What measures has the Government of Cyprus taken and is planning to take to strengthen the representation of women in decision-making positions in political life?