**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Friday, 6 November, 09.00-12.30**

Ms. Christiana Koktsidou

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**36th Session**

**Bulgaria**

Madam President,

Cyprus warmly welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria, which despite the COVID-19 challenges has made the effort to present its report before us.

Cyprus commends Bulgaria for accepting the vast majority of the recommendations offered by States during the previous cycle, notably the submission of a report for the Beijing Declaration Global Review.

Cyprus would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Take effective measures to prevent and eradicate human trafficking by prosecuting and punishing perpetrators promptly.
2. Create a mechanism to identify potential victims of human trafficking by strengthening collaboration with relevant NGOs.
3. Considering that one of the root causes of human trafficking is extreme poverty, take corrective measures to combat school drop outs.
4. Ratify the Istanbul Convention and thus strengthen legislation to combat gender-based violence.

Cyprus would like to wish to the delegation of Bulgaria to have a successful outcome.

Thank you, Madam President.