**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus**

**Monday, 2 November 2020,**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**36th Session**

**Belarus**

Madam President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Delegation from Belarus at today’s UPR, as well as the presentation of its Report.

Cyprus notes that since its last review, Belarus has ratified and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has entered into force. We also note that measures have been undertaken to improve school enrolment numbers.

Cyprus makes the following recommendations:

1. Adopt measures to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty;
2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT;
3. Respect, protect and promote freedom of expression, as stipulated in article 19, para 2 of the ICCPR, including by facilitating the accreditation of foreign journalists.
4. Investigate cases of the use of disproportionate violence by the Police.

Thank you.