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Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
(Fifteenth Session)**

UPR of France

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Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of France, and appreciates its thorough presentation which comes in line with France's renowned status in the evolution of human rights; as the French history is rich with important literature that helped consolidating the notions of rights and liberties.

Egypt Welcomes many of the steps undertaken by the Government of France since the review of the first UPR cycle, specially acceding to the CRPD, and activities carried out by the committee for remembrance and history of slavery.

We take note of the efforts undertaken to combat discrimination and hate crimes, and we recommend that France reviews its deposited interpretation of Article 4 of the ICERD, and to include within the updated national plan enhanced accountability measures on; combating religious and ethnic incitement and hate speech, particularly with respect to elections and media. We also recommend that the Government of France takes the necessary measures to confront malpractices by police officers, specially identity searches based on racial profiling of Muslims and people from Arab or African descent.

The government of France has always attached great importance to promoting equality and social diversity, however reports from civil society, treaty-bodies, and special procedures indicate that the Act on banning conspicuous religious symbols in public schools and the Act on banning Niqab in public places cast serious ramifications on the rights and freedoms of the affected persons, specially Muslim women. In this regard, we recommend that the Government of France reconsiders the two legislations in the light of its relevant obligations under the international human rights law.

I Thank you.