

**UN Human Rights Council
18th Session of the Working Group of the UPR
Review of Cyprus**

Geneva, February 2014

Statement by Armenia

Thank you Mr President.

Armenia warmly welcomes the Delegation of Cyprus and thanks them for the thorough update on human rights situation in the country. Our delegation appreciates the legislative and policy initiatives undertaken by the Government of Cyprus to address the recommendations since the first UPR cycle. They demonstrate sincere commitment of the Government of Cyprus in promoting and protecting human rights in the country.

Armenia welcomes the approval of a new policy on Multicultural Education by the Council of Ministers, as well as other relevant policies of the Government of Cyprus to address the issues of national minorities and to support their integration into the society. Particularly, we note with appreciation the tolerant and respectful attitude towards the Armenian community and the Armenian church in Cyprus, which enjoy full support of the Government.

In this regard, we express our concern about the situation of human rights and the continuing destruction of the cultural property in the occupied part of the Island, and disappointment with the fact that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus is not able to guarantee human rights of the population as well as to protect the historical monuments and other sights of cultural heritage, including those belonging to religious minorities, located in the territory beyond the effective control of the Government.

Armenia recommends Cyprus:

1. To further promote and protect the rights of religious minorities;
2. To continue Educational Reform and Restructuring of the educational system, particularly paying attention towards raising awareness and education on human rights