

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - 21st Session, 27 October - 7 November 2014**

***Statement by the Republic of Cyprus on***

***Egypt***

Mr. President,

I would like to welcome H.E. Minister El Henedy and his team and to thank him for his comprehensive introductory remarks.

Cyprus recognises the difficulties faced by the Egyptian authorities in their efforts to address recommendations made during the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, with terrorism constituting undoubtedly a major challenge. Against this backdrop, Cyprus would like to commend the Egyptian authorities for their firm commitment to the quest for democracy and the implementation of the approved road map.

We note with satisfaction a series of measures that the Government of Egypt has taken in this direction, such as the lifting of the general state of emergency, the adoption of the amended Constitution and the establishment of a Committee on Institutional reform and we welcome initiatives taken to promote and safeguard the rights of women, children and religious minorities, and even more so initiatives aimed at promoting inter-religious dialogue, such as the "Home of the Egyptian Family".

Finally, Cyprus would recommend that the Egyptian authorities continue to promote and enhance interaction and dialogue between the competent national authorities and civil society organizations, with the aim of further improving human rights protection mechanisms.

Thank you Mr. President.