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Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-Fifth Session**

Review of Greece

(Geneva, 3rd May 2016)

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Mr. President,

A warm welcome to the Greek high level delegation. We wish Greece, an important partner and friend of Egypt, a very successful UPR exercise.

A number of positive developments in Greece since the last review such as the national human rights action plan 2014-2016, the active role of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), the ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the construction of a mosque in Athens and the promotion of the rights of Greek Muslims.

We appreciate that the report sincerely reflected the key challenges. Greece faced a severe economic crisis and fiscal pressures. We recommend that Greece continues its efforts to mitigate the negative impact of the economic crisis on human rights and to urge the international lenders to support the Government's endeavors in this area. Greece also witnessed major influx of refugees and migratory pressures. We recommend the Government of Greece to maintain addressing this emerging situation while continuing to ensure the necessary respect for human rights.

Egypt acknowledges the efforts by the Greece in combating racism and xenophobia including aggravating the circumstances in hate crimes and training law enforcement officials and recommends that Greece continues its endeavors to combat racism including through establishing a national board against racism and intolerance.

Moreover, we recommend the following to the kind consideration of the Government of Greece:

- 1- To continue to promote the right to work for all including through providing technical and vocational training for young people.
- 2- To consider the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW).

I thank you.
