**Universal Periodic Review 28th session / 6-17 November 2017**

*Statement by the Republic of Cyprus in the review of*

*Switzerland*

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of Switzerland in the 3rd UPR cycle and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of a comprehensive national report, which was the outcome of a broad consultation process involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

Cyprus commends the Swiss authorities for their close cooperation with Treaty Bodies and HRC mandate holders and notes that the promotion of respect for human rights is a systemic component of the country’s foreign policy under the Constitution. We note with satisfaction the implementation of the National Program to Prevent and Fight Poverty 2014-2018 and welcome the steps undertaken with the aim of improving the integration of foreign nationals, especially by combating discrimination.

Whilst acknowledging the relevant initiatives undertaken at various levels, we encourage Switzerland to continue with the same determination its efforts — in partnership with civil society organisations — aimed at combating the marginalization that can affect some members of vulnerable population groups.

Finally, Cyprus **recommends** that the Swiss authorities strengthen their efforts to promote gender equality, including through awareness-raising programmes and the development of a comprehensive national gender strategy.

I thank you.