**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Monday, 18 January 2021, 14.30-18.00**

Ms. Andrea Petranyi

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**37th Session**

**LEBANESE REPUBLIC**

Madam/Mr. (Vice-)President,

Cyprus welcomes Lebanon’s participation in the 3rd Cycle of the UPR and commends its authorities for its comprehensive national report, the completion of which coincided with the grave humanitarian tragedy caused by the 4 August explosion. Please, once again, accept our heartfelt condolences and be assured of the unwavering solidarity of the government and the people of Cyprus with Lebanon and its people. Lebanon had already been facing an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, exacerbated by the pandemic, whilst it offers refuge to over a million and a half-displaced Syrians, who comprise over 20% of Lebanon’s population. This is the highest refugees-to-population ratio in the world.

Cyprus urges Lebanon to enact reforms and implement existing legislation. Further to this, Cyprus makes the following recommendations:

* Ensure Lebanese women have the right to pass on their citizenship to their spouses and children;
* Establish an official moratorium on executions;
* Accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC;
* Continue efforts to address the problem of missing and forcibly disappeared persons.

Thank you.