**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Monday, 5 November, 9.00-12.30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**31st Session**

**KINGDOM OS SAUDI ARABIA**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of Saudi Arabia, and the presentation of the Kingdom’s Report.

Cyprus recognizes that “Saudi Vision 2030” includes several positive reforms and is encouraged by specific areas of progress since the Kingdom’s last UPR-cycle. The greatly publicized lift of the driving ban on women is a highly symbolic step. The plan to further increase women’s participation in the work force, after an already respectable increase this past year, is commended.

Challenges -some severe-, remain, however, and towards this end, Cyprus makes the following recommendations:

* Allow children born to Saudi mothers and non-Saudi fathers to obtain Saudi citizenship, thus ensuring equal treatment of men and women under this law as well as compliance with the Kingdom’s obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
* Reduce the number of offences punishable by death, commencing with non-violent drug smuggling, and abolish it for minors.