

 CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**32nd Session**

**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Tuesday, 22 January 2019**

***Socialist Republic of Vietnam***

Mr. President,

Cyprus warmly welcomes the participation of Vietnam in the 3rd UPR cycle and thanks its authorities for the presentation of its national report.

Cyprus recognizes the measures that Vietnam has taken to implement its international human rights obligations. In particular, we commend the country for the significant progress made in poverty reduction and the eradication of hunger, as well as the efforts taken to increase people’s access to education and culture, including in rural areas and remote regions. Moreover, our delegation encourages Vietnam to further reduce the number of capital crimes.

Finally, Cyprus has the following two recommendations:

1. Increase and ensure Vietnamese citizens’ access to information, including by increasing radio and television coverage in all parts of the country.
2. Strengthen healthcare services, in particular for older persons.