**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Monday, 21 January, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**32nd Session**

**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes H.E. Mrs. Adela RAZ, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Afghan delegation.

Cyprus is aware of the internal and external challenges the Government is facing in its effort to adhere to human rights. We note with satisfaction the Government’s strives to increase the level of active participation of women, inter alia, in the High Peace Council, in the Executive branch and the Districts Council.

However, the lack of security has disproportionately been affecting women and children. In addition, it is evident that impunity impedes reconciliation.

 Cyprus would like to offer the following 3 recommendations:

1. Exert all effort to end impunity by strengthening the implementation of the penal code and enforcement of persecution.
2. Implement all necessary actions in order to provide girls with education.
3. Persecute violence against women, notably the so-called “honour killings”.

I thank you, Mr. President.