**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Wednesday, 23 January 2019**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**32nd Session**

**YEMEN**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Yemeni delegation and the presentation of its Report, especially given the significant external and internal challenges the Government is facing.

The situation in Yemen is considered to be the gravest humanitarian catastrophe in the world. The talks in December agreeing to a ceasefire around Yemen’s most important port, as well as prisoner exchanges, has been an encouraging sign and we urge all parties to implement all agreed steps. Ultimately, only though a negotiated political settlement can the conflict end and the ongoing humanitarian crisis properly addressed.

Cyprus would like to offer the following 3 recommendations:

* Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law must urgently cease and to this end, we urge the Yemeni Government to comply with its international obligations.
* Pay public sector salary arrears, reopen Sana’a Airport, and lift unnecessary import restrictions.
* Cooperate with humanitarian aid agencies with the goal that critical aid is delivered; and provide psychosocial support to a traumatised population.

Thank you.