**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus**

**Wednesday, 6 May 2019, 09.00-12.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**33rd Session**

**NORWAY**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Norwegian delegation at today’s UPR, as well as for the presentation of its Report.

Cyprus commends Norway for its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, achievements in the field of gender equality and for ratifying, since its last review, the Council of Europe Istanbul, and Lanzarote conventions. We are however concerned by reports of disproportionate use of out-of-home child placements, deprivation of parental rights and recommend that such drastic steps are only used as last resort.

Cyprus would like to offer the following recommendations to Norway:

* Use drastic steps such as out-of-home child placements and deprivation of parental rights only as a last resort.
* Strengthen the asylum system to fully respect the principle of “non-refoulement”, by placing safeguards to ensure that asylum-seekers are not returned to countries where they risk torture or ill-treatment.
* Place the responsibility for all unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and refugees, up to the age of 18 years, with the Child Welfare Services.

My delegation wishes to Norway a very successful UPR

I Thank you Mr. President.