**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus**

**Wednesday, 14 May 2019, 09.00-12.30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**33rd Session**

**ETHIOPIA**

Madame Vice President,

Cyprus warmly welcomes the participation of the Ethiopian Delegation.

We recognize the progress since Ethiopia’s previous review. In particular, we welcome the release of political prisoners and the engagement of the government with civil society and the opposition parties. We commend also Ethiopia for implementing policies and legal frameworks aiming at protecting the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the country.

Finally, Cyprus has three recommendations:

1. Expedite efforts to eliminate child marriage and FGM.
2. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
3. Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC.

I thank you Mme Vice President.