**Universal Periodic Review 33rd Session**

*Statement by the Republic of Cyprus in the review of*

*Bhutan*

Wednesday, 8 May 2019, 14.30-18.00

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes Bhutan’s participation in the 3rd cycle of the UPR and commends its authorities for the comprehensive national report, as well as for today’s presentation.

We wish to seize this opportunity to commend the measures that the Kingdom of Bhutan has taken to implement its international human rights obligations. In particular, we welcome the recent adoption of a National Plan of Action for Child Wellbeing and Protection, as well as the Strengthening of the National Commission for Women and Children.

Cyprus has the following four recommendations:

1. Intensify ongoing efforts to improve the living conditions of the elderly and persons with disabilities;
2. Continue to develop strategies to improve the quality of and access to education;
3. Increase gender equality and employment opportunities through economic empowerment, and finally
4. Revoke Section 213 of the Penal Code.

We wish Bhutan a successful UPR Review.

Thank you, Mr. President.