**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Wednesday, 13 November, 9.00-12.30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**34th Session**

**ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

Mr. President,

Cyprus would like to welcome the delegation from Egypt, and the presentation of the government’s national Report.

Cyprus wishes to commend the Egyptian Government for the ratification of the new NGO law and looks towards to its full implementation. Furthermore, the increase of formal representation of women at decision-making levels, including via the introduction of the 25% quota for female members of parliament, is both highly symbolic but also a very tangible step towards the empowerment of women in Egypt.

Challenges naturally remain and towards this end, Cyprus makes the following recommendations:

* Work towards eliminating gender discriminatory clauses in legislation; and
* Organize campaigns and educational programmes, including in schools, to raise awareness on the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity.

Thank you.