Ms. Christiana Koktsidou

**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus**

**Monday, 4 November 2019, 14:30-18:00**

**1:35’’**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**34rd Session**

**The Republic of El Salvador**

Mr. / Mme (Vice) President,

Cyprus warmly welcomes the delegation of El Salvador.

Cyprus appreciates El Salvador’s efforts since its last UPR, particularly on the National Policy on Access to a Violence-Free Life for Women; the Strategy for the Prevention of femicide and Sexual violence against Women; the “Safe El Salvador” Plan and; the “I am changing” prison management program. The ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC and the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment are also commended.

Cyprus encourages additional policies that effectively combat gang violence and their adverse effects.

With this in mind, Cyprus would like to make the following recommendations:

* Implement economic and social development policies with the aim to eliminate extreme poverty.
* Expedite the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.
* Identify and implement policies that enhance trust in law enforcement.
* Strengthen policies to combat domestic violence, sexual violence, femicides and discrimination against LGBTQI.

I thank you Mr. / Mme (Vice) President