**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Friday, 8 November, 9.00-12.30**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**34th Session**

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the presentation of the government’s national Report.

Cyprus wishes to commend the Iranian Government for recently approving a law allowing Iranian mothers who are married to foreigners to pass on their citizenship to their children.

Challenges, some severe, remain and Cyprus wishes to make the following recommendations:

* As a keen advocate of abolishing the death penalty, Cyprus recommends the reduction of the number of offences punishable by death, commencing with drug-related offences, as well as the prohibition of the use of the death penalty against those who were minors at the time the crime was committed.
* Introduce a minimum legal age for marriage in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you.