**Intervention by the Republic of Cyprus,**

**Monday, 11 November, 14.30-18.00**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**34th Session**

**REPUBLIC OF IRAQ**

Mr. President,

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

Cyprus wishes to commend the Iraqi Government for the 2018 parliamentary elections, which despite very grave security challenges, met international standards. Furthermore, the election of 83 women parliamentarians is a significant step towards women’s empowerment and we encourage the adoption by parliament of the Anti-Domestic Violence bill.

Challenges naturally remain and Cyprus recommends the following:

* As a keen advocate of abolishing the death penalty, Cyprus recommends reducing the number of offences punishable by death; and
* Organize campaigns and educational programmes, to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity.

Thank you.