

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Madame Chair

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Czech Republic, headed by *Vladimir Galuška, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

We would like to congratulate the Czech Republic for its comprehensive second UPR report and for the applied methodology in the drafting process at national level including due participation of NGOs representatives and civil society stakeholders.

We take positive note of the developments in the Czech Republic in the area of the protection and promotion human rights since 2008. In this respect, we commend the Czech Republic for the implementation of all the 29 (out of 30) accepted recommendations and the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments.

Bulgaria further notes with satisfaction that among the national priorities and initiatives in the years to come remains the improvement of human rights situation and seizes this opportunity to ask the following question:

What particular measures have been identified so far for the next two years (2012 and 2013) in the first Plan of Action with a view to fully implement the National Strategy for Protecting the Rights of the Child by 2015?

We would also like to reiterate the recommendation made to the Czech Republic in 2011 by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that the country considers ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography that has been signed in 2005.

Thank you, Madame Chair.