

UPR 14 – Ghana – 23 October 2012

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Madame Chair,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Ghana, led by
.....

We would like to congratulate Ghana for its comprehensive second UPR report that was prepared after a broad consultative process at the national level.

We welcome the developments in Ghana and the changes in the normative and institutional framework in the period 2008 – 2012, the major one being the setting up in 2009 of the Constitutional Review Commission.

Bulgaria notes positively that Ghana has taken key measures to promote and protect women's rights which led to the establishment in 2008 of a Domestic Violence Secretariat under the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and the development of a National Policy and Plan of Action to combat domestic violence.

With regard to equality and non-discrimination, Bulgaria further notes the observation by the UNDP that Ghana has demonstrated commitment to the principle of equal participation of men and women. The adopted Affirmative Action Policy, (that requires 40 per cent representation of women on all government boards, commissions, committees and other political offices,) lacks however proper legal backing. We recommend that measures be taken to that effect.

Bulgaria also recommends the government of Ghana to continue its efforts to increase the national net enrolment rate for the compulsory and free basic education and to further improve the quality of education being received by Ghanaian children in school, in line with the observations made by UNICEF.

Thank you, Madame Chair.