

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Madame President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Korea, headed by .....

We would like to congratulate the Republic of Korea for its comprehensive second UPR report and for the efforts invested in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the initial report of the Working Group.

We take positive note of the substantive developments in the normative and institutional framework, as well as of the launch in March 2012 by the Government of the second National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NAP) for 2012-2016.

Bulgaria further notes the expansion of the scope of investigation of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRCK) this March. We would like to recommend to the Republic of Korea the establishment of a channel for the NHRCK and civil society organizations to participate in the work of the National Human Rights Policy Council on the implementation of recommendations from the UPR and treaty bodies.

Underlying the importance of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and taking note of the statement made in this respect by the National Human Rights Commission and by several other civil society representatives, Bulgaria seizes this opportunity to further recommend that the Republic of Korea accedes to OP-CAT and establishes an effective national mechanism to prevent torture or degrading treatment.

Thank you, Madame President.