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UPR 14 – Switzerland – 29 October 2012

Alexsei Andreev

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Madame Chair,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Switzerland, headed by Mr Didier Burkhalter, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

We would like to thank Switzerland for its comprehensive second UPR report and for the efforts invested in the implementation of the accepted recommendations. Furthermore, we congratulate Switzerland for the broad consultations and the inclusive dialogue with the civil society in the process of the adoption of the present report.

We take positive note of the ratification of several key international human rights instruments, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In line with the recommendation made by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture, Bulgaria recommends that Switzerland also accede to the first Optional Protocol of the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

Bulgaria seizes this opportunity to also recommend that the Government of Switzerland further develops its institutional and human rights infrastructure, including the appointment of a federal ombudsperson, and undertakes measures in conformity with the Paris Principles regarding the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR).

Thank you, Madame Chair.