**UPR 16 – Germany – 25 April 2013**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Germany to the second UPR cycle.

We would like to congratulate Germany for its comprehensive second UPR report and for the manner in which the report was prepared at the national level, involving a public hearing with the participation of NGO representatives and civil society stakeholders.

Bulgaria views positively the fact that since the last review Germany has achieved commendable progress in developing an extended normative and institutional system for protection and promotion of human rights, thus further strengthening its leading roll in the field of human rights.

We would like to recommend Germany to study the option of extending the competences of the German Institute for Human Rights to receive complaints.

We note with appreciation that Germany has signed and ratified a substantial number of international conventions within the framework of the UN and the Council of Europe and would recommend Germany to consider ratifying UNESCO’s Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2003.

Thank you.