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**UPR 16 – Russian Federation – 29 April 2013**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Russian Federation to the second UPR cycle, headed by H.E. Minister of Justice Mr. Konovalov.

We congratulate the Russian Federation for its comprehensive second UPR report and note positively the fact that since the last review the Russian authorities are working steadily to improve and strengthen the human rights institutions in the country.

Bulgaria appreciates the efforts of the Russian Federation in reforming the national human rights machinery, and would expect that these efforts will be intensified in the future.

We note in the report that the European Court of Human Rights adopts annually a number of decisions concerning violation of different articles of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms by the Russian authorities. We also acknowledge the efforts of the authorities to fully take into account the decisions of the ECHR and to follow its recommendations.

We further note with appreciation that the Russian authorities are taking consistent action to improve the situation of individuals in custody, as well as steadily refine laws and judicial practice in imposing sentences of imprisonment.

Bulgaria would further recommend to Russia to continue the efforts aimed at the humanization of criminal and criminal procedure legislation.

Thank you.