

UPR – SLOVAKIA – 3 February 2014

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Slovakia.

We would like to thank Slovakia for the comprehensive national report and detailed presentation today, demonstrating strong commitment to the UPR process.

Bulgaria welcomes the information in the report that during the period under review, the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 was approved and the Plenipotentiary of the Government for Roma Communities has continued his activities.

Bulgaria notes positively that an amendment to the Asylum Act was elaborated in order to strengthen the protection of asylum-seekers and persons who have been granted asylum.

We appreciate that in line with the recommendation made by Bulgaria in the first UPR, Slovakia made amendments to the Act on Residence of Foreigners in May 2013, thus providing complementary protection to asylum-seekers and foreigners.

Bulgaria further recommends that Slovakia put in place mechanisms to identify at an early stage children among refugees and asylum seekers who might have been involved in armed conflict in order to ensure their protection, recovery and reintegration.

Thank you!