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Mr. AMR ESSAM

**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Twenty Second Session**

**Review of Bulgaria**

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**(Geneva, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015)**

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Mr. President,

My delegation appreciates the thorough introductory remarks delivered earlier by the delegation of Bulgaria.

Egypt commends the efforts of the Government of Bulgaria in the field of protection and promotion of human rights since the conclusion of the last review. We welcome in particular the extensive efforts in the area of human rights education and training for police officers and other law enforcement officials and the strengthening of the national committee on combating trafficking in persons as well as the enactment of the new judicial system act and the creation of a National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights.

My delegation welcomes Bulgaria's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other international and regional human rights instruments. In the same vein, Egypt recommends Bulgaria to consider acceding to the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of the Families (ICRMW).

We take note of the continued efforts to strengthen the national ombudsman and we recommend Bulgaria to continue developing its National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. We also take positive note of the family assistance and benefits schemes. In this regard, Egypt recommends the Government of Bulgaria, in accordance with its respective obligations under international human rights law, to provide effective protection for the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

On the other hand, we are conscious of the remaining challenges in the areas of combating racism and migration management. We encourage the Government to continue its positive efforts in this regard, including in combating hate speech and incitement through media outlets.

I thank you.

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