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Statement by Ms. Eka Kipiani,
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We warmly welcome the Bulgarian Delegation and thank the Deputy Foreign Minister for the presentation of the national report.

Georgia commends Bulgaria for its positive actions on human rights since the first UPR.

We welcome the fact that in the reporting period Bulgaria ratified:

- The OP to the Convention against Torture;
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- The Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

We commend the efforts to strengthen the capacities of the Ombudsman, reform of the judicial system, as well as fight against corruption, organized crimes and conflict of interests. Georgia also commends Bulgaria for the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights (NCMHR) and the activities of the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues, serving as a coordinating and consultative body.

Georgia welcomes the development of a draft Gender Equality Act and in this regard, Georgia further **recommends**: to finalize the internal procedures in order to adopt a specific legislation on Gender Equality.

Georgia welcomes the decreasing number of children in the specialized institutions and the progress made in developing the Social Services for children. Having said that, we **recommend** that the Government continues its efforts to further improve the situation of children in specialized institutions.