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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 22ND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE
DELEGATION OF GHANA AT THE SECOND CYCLE REVIEW OF BULGARIA
THURSDAY, 7TH MAY, 2015**

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation from Bulgaria and applaud their commitment to UPR process.

Ghana commends Bulgaria for the establishment of the NCMHR in 2013, which we hope would carry out its mandate to ensure Bulgaria ratifies international agreements on Human Rights and therefore recommend amendments in the domestic legislative and administration.

Ghana also acknowledges the signing and ratification of some international human rights instruments as stated in paragraph 17 of its national report. We believe this is a step in the right direction and we applaud their efforts.

Ghana notes the steps taken by Bulgaria to increase employment of unemployed Roma people and to promote entrepreneurship by the project "Activating the non-active person" and applaud the success it has chocked thus far. We also commend the Bulgaria for the National Roma Integration Strategy (2012 - 2020) and we hope it is implemented fully to ensure Roma people are fully integrated in all aspects Bulgarian life, including social protection, education and health.

Ghana wishes to make the following recommendations for the consideration of Bulgaria:

- Ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (**ICRMW**) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (**ICPPED**)
- Adopt legislative measures to criminalize discrimination against women particularly of minority groups, disabled women and elderly women.
- Criminalize violence against women and punish offenders.
- Ensure equality of access to education, housing and employment especially of Roma people.
- Fast track the enactment of the Gender Equality Act.
- Repeal Article 158 of its Criminal Code and ensure that all acts of sexual violence against women and girls are properly investigated and perpetrators are punished.

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Thank you.