

UPR – Greece – 3 May 2016

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Mr. President!

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Greece.

We would like to thank Greece for the comprehensive national report.

The Bulgarian delegation notes with appreciation the measures taken by the National Commission for Human Rights and to congratulate the Government for the efforts to protect the most vulnerable groups of society.

Bulgaria praises the overall efforts made by Greece to thoroughly implement the recommendations from the first UPR cycle and welcomes the fact that has ratified several international instruments of human rights.

We appreciate that, in line with the recommendations, a National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child is being elaborated, with the participation of all sectors of the Administration and the Children's Ombudsman. Furthermore, we welcome the fact that the Ombudsman has been designated as the "national preventive mechanism" under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Bulgaria congratulates the fact that combating racism and intolerance remains a priority for Greece and we welcome the appointment of two special prosecutors-in Athens and Piraeus-for the investigation of racist crimes.

Bulgaria would like to address the following recommendations to the delegation of Greece:

- *Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence;*
- *Continue the efforts to promote gender equality, with regard to the high female unemployment rates*

We would like to wish the delegation of Greece a successful review session.

Thank you.