

UPR – Ireland – 11 May 2016

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Mr. President!

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Ireland.

Bulgaria praises the overall efforts made by Ireland to thoroughly implement the recommendations from the first UPR cycle and welcomes the creation of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission – a new national human rights institution, which has been granted status A under the Paris Principles.

We welcome the adoption of the first National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making (2015-2020). We hope that it will allow children and young people to have a voice in their individual and collective everyday lives.

Bulgaria also commends the establishment of the Workplace Relations Commission as an independent body to provide for mediation, conciliation, facilitation and advisory services.

Considering the measures taken by the State on the abortion rights issue, we encourage Ireland to continue the process of reviewing its national legislation in this area.

Bulgaria would further like to make the following recommendations:

- *ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;*
- *ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol.*

Thank you.