**UPR – FINLAND – 3 May 2017**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Finland.

We express our appreciation of the Government’s efforts to secure full respect for Finland’s international commitment to human rights. This is especially evident through the adoption and implementation of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights for 2017–2019 and the 2013 Human Rights Strategy of the Foreign Service of Finland.

Bulgaria also notes with appreciation the state’s Human Rights Report 2014, as a tool to improve the coordination between all relevant human rights bodies. We commend the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

We note the establishment of the Discrimination Ombudsman and National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal and look forward to the results of their work.

In line with the observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Bulgaria **recommends** that the Government step up efforts to improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination.

We **recommend** that Finland seeks to adopt procedures for the determination of the best interests of child victims of trafficking and children of victims, including in view of strengthening the identification of victims of trafficking, especially women and children.

Thank you!