**UPR – INDIA – 4 May 2017**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of India.

We commend the standing invitation issued by the Government to all special procedures and the accepted visits by three mandate holders during the reporting period.

Bulgaria also notes the importance of the work of the National Human Rights Commission and would like to call for the increase of its mandate, especially where the protection of the right to life is concerned.

We welcome the efforts to promote equal participation by women in all spheres of life, as well as the actions to step up the children’s right to education on a non-discriminatory basis. Bulgaria considers these areas as paramount in India’s commitments to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bulgaria **would** **recommend** that the Government finalises its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as other international instruments, as recommended by relevant treaty bodies.

We **would** **recommend** that India continues its fight against poverty, lack of adequate food, safe water and sanitation, while paying special attention to the need to introduce a child rights based approach in all policies.

Thank you!