**UPR – NETHERLANDS - 10 May 2017**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Netherlands. We would like to thank them for the comprehensive national report and their continuous commitment to the UPR process.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the consultative meetings held during the preparation of the National Report and the high level of inclusion of civil society actors and other stakeholders. We are looking forward to the results of the follow-up and monitoring process.

We commend the adoption of a National Action Plan on Human Rights and of the Kingdom-wide Action Plan on Children’s Rights. As the involvement of children in all policies that concern them is of high importance in the framework of the new millennium, we welcome the relevant provision in the new Youth Act.

In line with the recommendations and observations of the UN Treaty Bodies, Bulgaria would like to **recommend** that the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands:

1. Considers ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; and

2. Strengthens the measures for fighting discrimination.

We wish the delegation of the Netherlands a successful review session.

Thank you!