**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

44th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Azerbaijan***

14 November 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished Delegation of Azerbaijan and expresses its gratitude for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria highlights that Azerbaijan has taken a range of legislative and programme actions to implement the recommendations that it supported during the third UPR cycle. In this respect we note the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018, and the adoption and implementation of the Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding Children for 2020-2030.

Bulgaria recognizes the progress made in reforms to eliminate the gap in average wages between women and men.

We acknowledge the cooperation of Azerbaijan with the special procedures mandate holders of the UN Human Rights Council.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Azerbaijan:

1. Step up further efforts to stimulate the development of women's entrepreneurship and increase the share of women among small and medium-sized entrepreneurs;
2. Continue activities to provide children with disabilities with equal access to education at all levels and favourable environment for the inclusive education.

We wish the Delegation of Azerbaijan a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President.