**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Cuba***

15 November 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of Cuba and thanks for the presentation of their national report.

Our Delegation notes the efforts of Cuba to implement many of the recommendations of the third UPR cycle, including those related to the rights of the vulnerable groups such as women and girls.

Bulgaria welcomes the adoption of the new Constitution in 2019, including the strengthening of women and girls’ rights and in regard of protection of the environment. We also commend the ongoing reform of the judicial system.

However, we remain concerned about the continuing restrictions on freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly and association.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Cuba:

1. To consider legislative action to create a more pluralistic media environment, in line with international standards.
2. To continue its efforts to improve the protection of women and children from violence through measures such as facilitating public spaces for debate on violence against women and girls and developing and approving a law on gender violence.

We wish the Delegation of Cuba a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!