**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Uzbekistan***

8 November 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of Uzbekistan and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We highlight that the amendments to the Constitution, which were adopted through referendum in 2021, focus on further strengthening the protection of human rights.

Bulgaria commends the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2021.

We note with appreciation the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy, the establishment of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman’s Office, and the creation of the National Commission on Children. We praise the activity of the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family.

Bulgaria appreciates Uzbekistan's ongoing reform programme and reiterates the importance of strengthening democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Uzbekistan:

1. Take further legislative measures to ensure a safe digital environment to children, in which their rights are protected.
2. Continue efforts to improve the educational infrastructure with a view to ensuring the accessibility of all schools and universities for persons with disabilities.

We wish the Delegation of Uzbekistan a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President.