**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

45th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of the Republic of the Congo***

30 January 2024

Thank you, Mr. President!

Bulgaria welcomes the high-level Delegation of the Republic of the Congo and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We note with appreciation that the Congo has adopted a number of important legislative, institutional and policy measures in line with the accepted recommendations of the third UPR cycle. Bulgaria would like to particularly highlight the adoption of the Mouebara Act which addresses various forms of domestic violence, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

We praise the significant steps taken to strengthen child protection measures, including the enactment and enforcement of laws against child labor and exploitation.

Bulgaria recognizes that the current membership of the Congo of the Human Rights Council for the third term is an expression of the Congo’s strong commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to the Congo:

1. Continue undertaking measures to address discrimination against persons, belonging to vulnerable groups;
2. Take further steps to improve access to quality education for all children, including girls;
3. Enhance the protection of persons with disabilities through the implementation of national action plans.

We wish the Delegation of the Congo a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President.