**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

46-th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Afghanistan***

29 April 2024

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of Afghanistan.

Bulgaria remains deeply concerned about the widespread and systematic human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan.

We are alarmed by the restrictive policies of the de facto authorities regarding the right to peaceful assembly and the use of arbitrary arrest and detention of demonstrators. We are deeply worried about the measures to suppress freedom of expression and freedom of press in the country.

We are outraged by the continued policies and directives that curtail the fundamental rights and freedoms of women and girls. Bulgaria is alarmed that children in Afghanistan continue to be particularly vulnerable to serious violations of their rights.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Exert immediate efforts to end human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan, and to restore the rule of law;
2. Take measures to restore the respect for the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, and to combat and eradicate all forms of their oppression.
3. Exert efforts to ensure effective protection of the rights of the child, notably the right to education for girls.

Thank you, Mr. President.