**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Dominican Republic***

7 May 2024

Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the Delegation of the Dominican Republic and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the progress of the Dominican Republic in implementing the accepted recommendations of the third UPR cycle.

We welcome the adoption of the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women, as an important step towards advancing women’s rights in the country, as well as the Regulations for the Comprehensive Care of Persons in Situations of Gender-based and Domestic Violence.

Bulgaria commends the establishment of a Cabinet for children and adolescents and the efforts to ban child marriages, as a firm commitment to children’s rights.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further appropriate measures to strengthen social security systems with a special focus on the social security of women and girls;
2. Increase efforts to improve maternal and neonatal health care in order to reduce infant and child mortality.

We wish the Delegation of the Dominican Republic a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. President.