**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of New Zealand***

29 April 2024

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of New Zealand and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the progress made in strengthening the legislative, institutional and policy frameworks for the protection of human rights in New Zealand since the previous cycle of the UPR.

Bulgaria applauds the establishment of the New Zealand’s Inter-Ministerial National Mechanism on Human Rights and the Ministry of Disabled People.

We recognize that the implementation of the 2019 Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy has made significant contribution to improving the wellbeing of children and young people.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Enhance the coordination and allocation of resources to eliminate difficulties faced by children with disabilities, especially some delays in assessing their needs and providing timely services;
2. Continue measures to implement the prevention, protection and enforcement actions set out in the 2021 Plan of Action against Forced Labour, Trafficking in Persons and Slavery.

We wish the delegation of New Zealand a successful review!

Thank you.