**Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review*** ***of the Slovak Republic***

6 May 2024

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished Delegation of the Slovak Republic and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

We note with appreciation Slovakia’s consistent efforts to implement the accepted recommendations from the previous cycle of UPR. Bulgaria would like to highlight Slovakia's progress in implementing strategies for equality between women and men, and for Roma integration.

We commend the adoption of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2022-2027 and the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence 2023-2029.

Bulgaria applaud the efforts made to provide welfare services and social assistance to all persons with disabilities, especially children.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further measures to strengthen the capacity of the National Centre for Human Rights in order to obtain re-accreditation with “A” status according to the Paris Principles;

2. Continue efforts aimed at strengthening women’s empowerment in political, social, economic and cultural spheres.

We wish the Slovak Republic every success with this UPR cycle!

Thank You, Mr. President!