**Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Vanuatu***

May 2, 2024

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of Vanuatu and thanks for the detailed presentation of its national report. We commend the efforts of the Government of Vanuatu in implementing the accepted recommendations of the third UPR cycle. We compliment Vanuatu for being a pacesetter in the fight against climate change. We note with appreciation the adoption of a number of strategic documents in recent years, including the National Gender Equality Policy 2021-2030, the Disability Inclusive Education and Training Policy of 2024-2030 and the Health Sector Strategy 2021-2030. Bulgaria acknowledges the steps taken by the Vanuatuan authorities to combat gender discrimination and violence against women as well as to ensure access to quality education for all.

Bulgaria would like to offer for consideration the following recommendations:

1. To further introduce legislative amendments to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence of women and children.
2. To review all relevant legislation so as to incorporate fully the principle of gender equality, including by adopting a gender-responsive approach towards climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, projects and governance mechanisms.
3. To continue the efforts to provide access inclusive quality education for each child and to take effective measures to retain children in school and increase their attendance

We wish the Delegation of Vanuatu a successful review!

Thank You, Mr. President!