**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

47th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Norway***

4 November 2024

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of Norway and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria recognizes the achieved high level of equality between women and men in Norwegian society and the reduction of the wage gap between women and men in recent years.

We note that in 2023 amendments to the Child Protection Act came into force with an emphasis on preventive measures, early intervention and strengthening the legal protection of children and families.

We appreciate the valuable support provided by Norway to Bulgaria under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in key democracy, human rights and rule of law areas, as well as the continuous dialogue with the Norwegian authorities on matters of mutual interest in the field of child rights and child welfare.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that the Municipal Services for Child Protection (Barnevern), when considering cases of children with foreign citizenship, duly take into account the national characteristics, culture and traditions of the child and his/her family.
2. Recommend to Barnevern to immediately provide foreign diplomatic missions in Norway with information on all cases of separation of children who are foreign citizens from their parents, deprivation of parental rights of biological parents who are foreign citizens and restriction of contact rights of biological parents who are foreign citizens with their separated children.

We wish the Delegation of Norway a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. President!