**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

48th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Italy***

20 January 2024

Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the Delegation of Italy and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria commends the advancement in achieving equality between women and men, protection of the rights of the child, and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities made by Italy. We welcome Italy’s efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework on equality between women and men, and to eliminate discrimination against women, violence against women and domestic violence in particular through the adoption of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, initiatives like the Gender Equality Certification System and increased support for women-owned businesses.

We recognize Italy’s policy on prioritizing autonomy and inclusion with substantial investments in accessibility and education. The country’s proactive stance on child welfare is also commendable, with initiatives such as the National Child Guarantee Action Plan and laws to safeguard children’s digital well-being, ensuring a safer and more inclusive environment for all.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Italy:

1. Take further steps to eliminate the gender wage gap and its adverse impact on women’s pension benefits.
2. Enhance efforts to ensure access to education for all children without discrimination.
3. Continue to take appropriate measures to reduce school dropout rates.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.