**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

28th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Benin***

10 November 2017

Mr. Vice-President,

Bulgaria is pleased to welcome the high level Delegation of Benin and to thank for the presentation of the national report.

We would like to highlight the recent developments in the normative and institutional framework resulting in improving of the protection of human rights in Benin.

We commend the enactment of the Children’s Code, which incorporates major provisions of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. We note with appreciation that a free-education policy has been followed and it has been extended to the higher education.

We commend the measures which Benin has taken to fulfil the obligations, arising from its ratification of the Second Protocol to the ICCPR and to enact the new Criminal Code, which provides for the abolition of the death penalty.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Benin:

• To launch awareness-raising campaign aimed at changing the attitude and practices related to ill-treatment and abuse of children;

• To step up efforts to address prejudice against children with disabilities, to ensure that such children have access to health care and inclusive education;

• To continue the implementation of policies to encourage the sustainable economic empowerment of women, in particular in rural areas.

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

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President!