**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Pakistan***

13 November 2017

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of Pakistan and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We appreciate the legal, policy and institutional developments in Pakistan in the period 2012-2017. The establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, the launch of the National Plan of Action on Human Rights in February 2016, the wide range of activities of the National Commission on Human Right and the Human Rights Departments in all provinces, the enactment of the Bill on National Commission on the Rights of the Children in 2017, etc. have contributed to strengthening the protection of human rights in the country.

We encourage Pakistan to enhance the protection of the rights of the child and to take further measures to improve the health care and social assistance to the persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Pakistan:

• To step up efforts to ensure access of all children to quality education, regardless of social status, gender and ethnicity;

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

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

Thank you, Mr. President!