**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

37th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Austria***

22 January 2021

Madame/Mr. Vice-President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the delegation of Austria and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We commend the progress and the important developments since the second UPR.

Bulgaria took note that an evaluation of the equal-treatment legislation and instruments was carried out in 2016 and **considers this as important step, but Austria should continue its efforts** to strengthen and harmonise its anti-discrimination legislation at the federal and regional (Länder) level.

Further to its recommendation made in the second cycle of the UPR of Austria, Bulgaria would like to address the following recommendations:

1. Consider amending the Equal Treatment Act and other acts addressing discrimination with a view to ensuring substantive and procedural protection against discrimination with regard to all prohibited grounds of discrimination.
2. Develop the National Action Plan on Disability 2021–2030 in a participatory way and formulate a coherent strategy for the deinstitutionalization with a clear time frame and a mechanism for its effective implementation and monitoring.

We wish the Delegation of Austria a successful review!

Thank you.