**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Lebanon***

18 January 2021

Madame/Mr. Vice-President,

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

We commend the progress that has been made in 2020 with the approval of the Strategic Plan for the protection of women and children (2020-2027) that includes provisions against gender-based violence. We praise the adoption of a new law against sexual harassment and new legal provisions against domestic violence by the Lebanese Parliament last December.

Bulgaria notes that the COVID - 19 pandemic added pressure on vulnerable households, reducing access to basic services, such as education, healthcare and social services. We are worried that women are unfavorably affected, especially due to some deficiencies in social assistance.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Lebanon:

1. Take practical steps to implement the laws on violence against women and domestic violence and raise awareness among the wider public.
2. Consider lifting reservations to CEDAW and reviewing current legislation to bring it in line with CEDAW.

We wish the Delegation of Lebanon a successful review!

Thank you.