**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

38th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Belgium***

5 May 2021

Mme. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished Delegation of Belgium and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the creation, in 2019, of the Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights of Belgium.

We would like to highlight the strong commitment of the Government of Belgium to equality of women and men. Bulgaria commends that the reduction of child poverty is among the priorities of the fourth Federal Anti-Poverty Plan (2020–2023). We praise the efforts of Belgium authorties to generalize the inclusive education policy, particularly with regard to children with disabilities.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Continue to promote increased representation of women at all levels of the public administration, particularly in decision-making positions, and facilitate their participation in management roles in the private sector.
2. Take further steps to address school dropout, particularly with regard to socially disadvantaged and marginalized children, and develop appropriate measures to ensure that those children remain in the education system.
3. Ensure establishment of care centres for survivors of sexual violence in places that are easily accessible from all over the country and ensure that all such centres receive structural support and sufficient financing.

We wish the Delegation of Belgium a successful review!

Thank you.