**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Latvia***

11 May 2021

Mme President,

Bulgaria extends warm welcome to the Delegation of Latvia and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria commends the active role of Latvia in promoting the protection of human rights on the international level.

We note with appreciation the effectiveness of legislative, institutional and policy measures in Latvia to implement the accepted recommendations of the Second UPR. We praise the efforts of the Latvian Government to prevent the spread of COVID – 19 pandemic and further strengthen the protection of human rights of all persons living in the country.

Bulgaria would like to highlight the fulfilment of 2018-2020 Plan for Promoting Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men that has resulted in high proportion of women in managerial positions, high proportion of female researchers, decline of female unemployment, etc.

We acknowledge the decrease in the number of children in State institutions in recent years.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Consider extending the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman to promote and protect women’s rights and equality of women and men.
2. Enhance efforts to achieve complete deinstitutionalization of all persons with disabilities.

We wish the Latvian Delegation a successful review!

Thank you.