**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Palau***

7 May 2021

Mme President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of Palau and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria acknowledges that Palau has made progress in implementing the accepted recommendations since the second UPR cycle. We note the ratification of ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, the creation of a national human rights task force and the adoption of a number of national policies, such as the Palau Climate Change Policy and the Gender Mainstreaming Policy.

We recognize that Palau has undertaken various legislative reforms for enhancing the protection of the rights of the child that have incorporated a number of provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Bulgaria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Step up efforts to increase the participation of women in the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, particularly at decision-making levels.
2. Ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are guaranteed by law in all areas of life, in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to effectively implement the national disability-inclusive policy.

We wish the delegation of Palau a successful review!

Thank you.