**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Singapore***

12 May 2021

Madame President,

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

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the progress of the follow-up actions taken by the Government of Singapore in implementing the accepted recommendations from the second UPR cycle. We acknowledge that the response to the COVID – 19 pandemic in Singapore has demonstrated that the country has sufficient institutional and social capacity to emerge stronger and deal with similar crises in the future.

Bulgaria would like to highlight the commitment of the Government of Singapore to equality of women and men which has found an expression in the high rate of participation of women in politics and public service. We commend the measures taken in Singapore to improve access to early childhood care and education to children from lower-income households. We applaud the implementation of the Third Enabling Masterplan (2017-2021) that promotes the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further measures to encourage women and girls to choose contemporary fields of study and professional careers, such as engineering, electronics, telecommunications, and information technology, and to eliminate traditional stereotypes and administrative obstacles, which may deter girls from enrolling in those fields.
2. Consider bringing the juvenile justice system fully in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international standards.

We wish the Delegation of Singapore a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you.