**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

39th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Ireland***

10 November 2021

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Ireland.

We would like to thank for the comprehensive national report and the presentation today. Bulgaria welcomes the overall efforts made by Ireland to implement the recommendations that were accepted during the second cycle.

We appreciate that in line with the recommendation made by Bulgaria in the second UPR, Ireland ratified in 2018 the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and welcome that Ireland, as a signatory to the OPCAT, has committed to ratifying the Optional Protocol before the end of 2021.

Bulgaria welcomes the leadership and commitment of Ireland to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society.

With a view to further improving the human rights situation in Ireland, Bulgaria wishes to offer the following recommendations:

1) Consider a reform in the legislative and policy framework related to persons with disabilities with the view to fully meet the standards set by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

2) Improve coordination and resource allocation to address the rights of children with disabilities and especially eliminate barriers faced by children with disabilities, including delays in assessing their needs and providing services.

We wish the delegation of Ireland a successful review!

Thank you.