**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Samoa***

2 November 2021

Thank you, Ms. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Samoa.

We commend Samoa for the numerous ratifications of UN human rights treaties and optional protocols in the reporting period, and hope the draft reports for the ICCPR, CRPD and CED will be finalised shortly.

Bulgaria acknowledges that Samoa’s National Human Rights Institution has been the first in the Pacific region to be granted A-level status for full compliance with the Paris Principles. We encourage the Government to implement its recommendations, while continuing to introduce the principle of leaving no one behind and a human rights approach to sustainable development.

Noting the country’s cultural specificities, we welcome the involvement in the EU-UN Spotlight initiative, as well as all efforts towards creating a change in mindsets about women and their place in society.

The Republic of Bulgaria would like to make the following **recommendations** to the Government of Samoa:

1. Ensure that all climate change policies consider the needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups and that they can participate in the decisions affecting them;
2. Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and introducing its provisions into the national legislation;
3. Maintain its efforts and take further steps to effectively address domestic violence, including violence against children.

Thank you.