**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

40th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Republic of Moldova***

28 January 2022

Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Moldova and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

We note with appreciation the extensive efforts of the Moldavian Government to strengthen the regulatory, institutional, and policy framework on promotion and protection of human rights in line with the accepted recommendations in the second UPR cycle.

We would like to highlight the accreditation of the Office of the People’s Advocate with A status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

Bulgaria commends the implementation of the Strategy for Consolidating Interethnic Relations, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in 2016. In this context, our expectations are that in the course of the anticipated administrative-territorial reform, the Moldavian authorities will ensure appropriate conditions for persons, belonging to the Bulgarian national minority, to continue to preserve their ethnicity and enjoy their cultural and educational rights.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to the Repubic of Moldova:

1. Continue to take measures aimed at strengthening women’s empowerment in political, social and economic spheres;
2. Develop and adopt a cross-sectoral strategy on early detection and intervention for children with disabilities, which will be supported by adequate budget allocations and human resources.

We wish the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova a successful review!

Thank you!