**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

41st session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Finland***

9 November 2022

Mr. President,

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

We congratulate Finland for taking a wide array of actions to implement the recommendations that were accepted in whole or in part during the third UPR cycle. We recognize that the Finish institutional framework for human rights has been further expanded with the establishment of the Ombudsperson for the Elderly, the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and the Rule of Law Centre.

Bulgaria appreciates that the third National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights continues the consistent work to strengthen the monitoring of human rights set out in the previous plans.

We highlight the measures taken by Finland to improve protection against discrimination, promote equality of women and men and strengthen the child-based approach in administration and decision-making.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Consider the nomination of national candidates for elections to the UN human rights treaty bodies through an appropriate selection process;
2. Ensure that training programmes for law enforcement officials at all levels include mandatory training on human rights, including on anti-discrimination, and combatting hate speech and hate crime;
3. Continue to expand the opportunities for young people with disabilities to receive professional training and find employment within the framework of the ongoing reforms in vocational education.

We wish the Delegation of Finland a successful review!

Thank you.