**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of India***

10 November 2022

Mr. President,

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

We appreciate the reinforcement of the constitutional principles of equality and non-discrimination through the adoption and implementation of various legislative, institutional and policy measures after the third UPR cycle.

Bulgaria applauds the successful implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes launched by the Indian Government, which has led to a significant reduction in the number of people living below the poverty line.

We commend the progress of India in providing access to affordable healthcare for all and ensuring free and compulsory education for all children in the age group of six to fourteen years.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further measures to promote women’s participation in the workforce, including through equal pay, skills development, job retention during pregnancy and maternity, and return-to-work opportunities after maternity;
2. Complete the review process to bring the legislation, policies and schemes for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We wish the delegation of India a successful review!

Thank you.