**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the Philippines***

14 November 2022

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the delegation of the Philippines and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria acknowledges the Government’s commitment to cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms, including through the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights.

While recognizing that many of the major human right challenges in the Philippines are long-standing and structural, we note that the human rights situation remains of concern.

Bulgaria would like to offer the following three recommendations:

1. Review laws and policies to better promote women and girls’ empowerment and take additional measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions at all levels of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches;
2. Develop a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating all forms of violence against children;
3. Develop a national action plan for inclusive education and ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in mainstream schools.

We wish the Delegation of the Philippines a successful review!

Thank you.