**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Poland***

15 November 2022

Mr. President,

Bulgaria extends warm welcome to the Delegation of Poland and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria commends the important role of Poland for the promotion and protection of human rights on international level, stemming from its membership in the UN Security Council and the UN Human Rights Council over the last few years, as well as from its current OSCE Chairmanship.

We recognize the unprecedented efforts undertaken by the Government of Poland and the Polish society to shelter more than 4.5 million Ukrainian refugees and provide them with accommodation, food, health-care, education, social and financial support, etc.

We appreciate the wide range of actions taken by Poland to implement the recommendations that were accepted in whole or in part during the third UPR cycle.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further measures to strengthen the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights by allocating the appropriate human and financial resources for the fulfilment of its mandate;
2. Continue the implementation of the initiatives on equal treatment of women and men, especially in the area of employment and social security, as provided for in the National Plan for Equal Treatment 2022-2030;
3. Continue measures to transform the system of alternative care for children into family-based settings.

We wish the Delegation of Poland a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you.