**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

42nd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of the Czech Republic***

23 January 2023

Mr. President,

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

Bulgaria views the election of the Czech Republic as President of the Human Rights Council for 2023 as an international recognition of its achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights.

We note with appreciation the progress made by the Czech Republic in implementing the accepted recommendation on the deinstitutionalization of children under 3 years, made by Bulgaria at the 28th session of the Working Group on the UPR.

We highlight the adoption and the implementation process of the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2020-2023, particularly with regard to combating trafficking in children.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further steps in the implementation of the National Strategy of Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2021-2030;
2. Intensify efforts to combat stereotypes and prejudice against vulnerable groups most exposed to hate speech in society, including through awareness-raising campaigns;
3. Continue targeted actions to prevent domestic violence and ensure enhanced protection for victims of crime.

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

Thank you!