**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Benin***

26 January 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of Benin and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria commends Benin’s adoption of legal texts, including the Criminal Code, which abolished the death penalty and criminalized torture.

We note with appreciation that the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions accredited the Benin’s Human Rights Commission with category A status in March 2022.

Bulgaria highlights Benin's achievements in improving access to education and health. We welcome the established minimum of 25 % for women’s participation in the National Assembly, introduced by law in 2021, and the creation of the National Institute on Women's Affairs.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Benin:

1) Continue efforts to repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against women and hinder their empowerment;

2) Take further measures to strengthen and improve the functioning of warning mechanisms and mechanisms for reporting and dealing with violations of children’s rights;

3) Step up further the efforts to improve the access to health care and inclusive education for persons with disabilities.

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

Thank you.