**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Switzerland***

27 January 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the Delegation of Switzerland and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We acknowledge that Switzerland has long and consistently been committed to respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. We praise the legislative, institutional and policy measures that have been taken to implement the accepted recommendations of the third cycle of the UPR.

Bulgaria highlights the adoption of the bill on the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution by the Federal Assembly of Switzerland on 1 October 2021 and the forthcoming constituent assembly of the Institution in May 2023.

We commend the adoption of the Equality Strategy 2030.

Bulgaria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1) Take further steps to promote increased women’s representation at the federal, cantonal and local levels of public administration, especially in decision-making positions, and promote their participation in management roles in the private sector;

2) Continue to provide support to youth advocacy organizations, especially organizations that offer services to children and adolescents;

3) Consider the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive strategy and action plan to fulfil the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at all levels of public administration.

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

Thank you, Mr. President!