**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

43rd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of France***

1 May 2023

Mr. President,

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

We acknowledge that France has long and consistently been committed to respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms on a national and international level.

We welcome the adoption of the National Strategy on the Elimination of Child and Forced Labour. We commend the adoption of the National Strategy on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Year 2030, in line with Bulgaria’s recommendation made during the previous cycle of the UPR.

Bulgaria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1) Take further measures to promote inclusive education by training teachers, education professionals and school assistants on providing inclusive education and individual support, giving due attention to the specific situation of each child;

2) Continue its efforts aimed at increasing the representation of women in the National Assembly and in the Senate, as well as in the presidencies of subnational councils, departments and regions;

3) Consider reforming medico-educational institutions with a view to include all children with disabilities in mainstream schools, while continuing to facilitate and ensure the access of all children with disabilities to appropriate support in inclusive regular schools.

We wish the delegation of France a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. President!