**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Romania***

2 May 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria is pleased to welcome the high level delegation of Romania and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

We acknowledge that Romania has continued to upgrade its legislation, institutional framework and policies for protection of human rights in line with the accepted recommendations of the third UPR cycle.

Bulgaria attaches importance to Romania’s continued approach aimed at ensuring the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to preserve their ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural identity.

Bulgaria highly appreciates the significant achievements in the implementation of judicial reform in Romania over the past few years, in particular the strengthening of the independence of the judicial system. We highlight the remarkable results in the investigation and sanctioning of corruption at the highest levels of the country.

Bulgaria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1) Continue efforts to implement objectives and activities of the Strategy on Children’s Rights for the period 2023-2027 and particularly to increase the level of children’s involvement in decision-making that affects them and to ensure children’s participation in quality inclusive education;

2) Take appropriate measures to strengthen the National Referral and Identification Mechanism so that it can promptly detect and effectively protect victims of human trafficking.

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

Thank you, Mr. President!