**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of The Bahamas***

3 May 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of The Bahamas and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria highlights the prompt and decisive response by the Government of The Bahamas to mitigate the devastating effects of the Hurricane Dorian in September 2019 and the adversely impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the population of the country.

We note with appreciation the ratification by The Bahamas of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in May 2018. Bulgaria acknowledges the efforts exerted by the Government of The Bahamas to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, address domestic violence, and strengthen the protection of the rights of the child and the rights of the persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1) Take further steps to establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

2) Consider conducting a review of laws and policies to promote equality between women and men and ensure increased participation of women in political and social life at all levels;

3) Adopt appropriate legislative, policy and administrative measures to better protect children and adolescent from all forms of violence in all settings.

We wish the delegation of The Bahamas a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. President.