**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the United Arab Emirates***

8 May 2023

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished delegation of the United Arab Emirates and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation that the UAE has enacted a large package of legislation, has introduced institutional framework and has adopted an integrated system of policies for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the accepted recommendations of the third UPR cycle.

We welcome the UAE’s commitment to accelerate the achievement of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and its voluntary commitment to increase the share of women in middle and senior management positions to 30 percent by 2025.

Bulgaria highlights that the Government of the UAE has taken a number of steps for the effective implementation of the Children’s Rights Act.

Bulgaria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1) Take further and more decisive measures to strengthen the independence and capacity of the National Human Rights Institution and achieve its full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

2) Continue interaction with civil society associations to provide optimal services to people with disabilities, to qualify them for education and work, and to integrate them into society;

3) Consider developing and adopting a national action plan to combat human trafficking, which will include enhanced measures to protect victims, especially women and children.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.