**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

29th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Romania***

16 January 2018

Mr. Vice-President,

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

Bulgaria praises that Romania has taken major steps to upgrade its legislation, policies and structural framework for protection of human rights based on the evaluation and accepted recommendations of the second cycle of UPR.

We would like to highlight the large scale efforts taken by the Romanian Government to prevent and combat corruption and ensure institutional transparency in the public sector. We commend that important amendments were introduced in the Romanian legislation on achieving genuine equality between women and men, and promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. We note with appreciation that the Romanian Government Strategy for the Inclusion of the Romanian Citizens Belonging to Roma Minority 2015-2020 takes into account the relevant recommendations of the European Union, the UN human rights bodies and the Council of Europe.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Romania:

• To take further steps for implementation of the 2016 Deinstitutionalization Plan for Children in Residential Care and Ensuring their Transition to Community-based Care and to expedite measures to broaden inclusive education for children with disabilities.

• To continue the fight against trafficking in human beings and the engagement in the regional and international cooperation in this respect.

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

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President!