**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Montenegro***

22 January 2018

Mme Vice-President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the high level Delegation of Montenegro led by Deputy Prime Minister Zoran Pajin and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria would like to highlight that Montenegro has accepted 120 out of 124 recommendations received within the second cycle of UPR. We commend Montenegro on taking relevant actions to enhance its normative and institutional framework for the promotion and the protection of human rights in line with the accepted recommendations.

Bulgaria acknowledges the adoption and implementation of the 2014 amendments to the Law on the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms (the Ombudsman) of Montenegro which has reinforced the mandate and has strengthened the autonomy and independence of the Ombudsman.

We praise the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency of Montenegro on 1 January 2016 tasked to increase the efficiency and to achieve measurable results in the area of fight against corruption.

Bulgaria also commends Montenegro on having taken consistent efforts towards enhancing equality between women and men and streamlining policies related to the rights of the children in different social segments.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Montenegro:

• To ensure effective implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings Strategy 2012-2018 and its Action Plan;

• To expedite measures to broaden inclusive education for children with disabilities.

We wish the Delegation of Montenegro a successful review!

Thank you, Mme Vice-President!