**StatementbyBulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Israel***

23January 2018

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished Delegation of Israel and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria would like to highlight that Israel has maintained a dialogue and has continuously engaged with the United Nations Human Rights Council and the United Nations human rights bodies since the last reporting cycle.

We recognize Israel’s commitment to equality between women and men in various aspects of live and its resolve to address gender based violence. Bulgaria acknowledges the progress achieved by Israel with regard to the protection of human rights of persons with disabilities and Israel’s efforts to promote a disability rights agenda.

Bulgaria pays tribute to the achievements of Israel in combatting trafficking in human beings and the Israel’s contribution to the international cooperation in this respect.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Israel:

• To step up efforts to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies on equality and non-discrimination;

•To take further steps to encourage women’s participation in the public sphere.

We wish the Delegation of the Israel a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!