**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the Republic of Serbia***

24 January 2018

Mr. President,

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

We would like to highlight that the Republic of Serbia as a candidate country for membership of the European Union attaches priority to the promotion and protection of human rights.

We express our satisfaction over the progress of the Republic of Serbia in strengthening equality between women and men, protecting the rights of the child and promoting the integration of the persons with disabilities in society.

Bulgaria welcomes that the Republic of Serbia has taken steps to improve its normative and institutional framework regarding the status of national minorities and their equal participation in the political and social life of the country.

Bulgaria would like to encourage the Government of the Republic of Serbia to undertake without delay relevant arrangements to provide broadcasting of radio and TV programs in mother tongue aimed at the Bulgarian national minority living in the country.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to the Republic of Serbia:

• To undertake further measures to upgrade the legislation on promotion and protection of the rights of persons, belonging to the national minorities and ensure its implementation.

• To continue pursuing appropriate policies to achieve more balanced economic and social development among the regions in the country.

We wish the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!