**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

30th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Cuba***

16 May 2018

Mr. President,

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

Our Delegation notes the efforts of Cuba to implement many of the recommendations of the second UPR cycle, including those related to the social, economic and cultural rights and to the rights of the vulnerable groups of population.

Bulgaria recognizes the participation of Cuba in the 3rd High level EU-Cuba discussions on human rights, held in May 2017.

We remain concerned about the continued restrictions of the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association. We call upon the Cuban authorities to eliminate the short-term detentions of human rights defenders and activists of civil society organization.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendation to Cuba:

1. To facilitate creation of a more pluralistic media environment in conformity with international standards.
2. To take further measures to improve the access of elderly women, rural women and women with disabilities to health-care services, social benefits and public participation.

We wish the Delegation of Cuba a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!