**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the Russian Federation***

14 May 2018

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of the Russian Federation and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

We acknowledge the ratification by the Russian Federation of a number of international human rights instruments after the Second UPR cycle.

Our delegation recognizes the adoption of the National Strategy of Action in the Interests of Women for the period 2017-2022 and the expansion of activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation who has been accredited in accordance with the Paris principles with status A.

Nevertheless, we note the rising restrictions against the freedoms of assembly, expression, and association in the country, which affect mostly the human rights defenders and civil society organisations. We would also like to express our concerns for cases of violations of the rights of vulnerable groups.

Our expectations are that the Russian Federation will take further appropriate steps aimed at effective implementation of the ratified international human rights instruments, enacted new legislation and adopted public policies.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to the Russian Federation:

• To strengthen the protection of the rights of children, persons with disabilities, elderly people and other vulnerable groups.

We wish the Delegation of the Russian Federation a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!