**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Turkmenistan***

7 May 2018

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of Turkmenistan and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria acknowledges the developments in the normative and institutional framework and in the public policies on protection of human rights in Turkmenistan after the Second UPR cycle.

We take note of the enactment of the new Constitution of Turkmenistan in 2016, which included a section on human rights and fundamental freedoms, the establishment of the Office of Ombudsman pursuant to the Law on Ombudsman of 2016, the adoption the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Women in 2015 and the adoption of the national action plans on human rights 2016-2020, on gender equality 2015-2020 and on combatting trafficking in persons 2016-2018. Bulgaria would like to encourage Turkmenistan to undertake appropriate measures aimed at effective implementation of the new legislation and public policies, as well to ensure independence and effectiveness of the Ombudsman’s Office to better reflect the United Nations principles relating to the status of national institutions.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Turkmenistan:

• To strengthen legislative measures and public policies designed to promote and protect the rights of women and to facilitate their empowerment;

• To discontinue the practice of temporary placement of children in institutions and to develop and implement a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy;

• To harmonize its legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in particular to consider adopting a social and human rights model for disability.

We wish the Delegation of Turkmenistan a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!