**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Uzbekistan***

9 May 2018

Mr. President,

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

Bulgaria notes that a number of constitutional amendments and new legislation on parliamentary oversight, modernization of public services, establishment of effective dialogue between the authorities and citizens, etc. have been adopted after the Second UPR cycle. We acknowledge that the Strategy of Actions on Further Development of Uzbekistan in the period 2017-2021 anticipates strengthening the protection of rights and freedoms of all citizens, growing role of the civil society institutions and the media.

Bulgaria would like to encourage Uzbekistan to take appropriate steps for implementation of the new legislation and public policies, as well for enhancing independence and effectiveness of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) in conformity with the Paris Principles.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Uzbekistan:

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

• To consider developing a coherent national strategy for protection of vulnerable children with an emphasis on the gradual transition from their present placement in institutions to receiving family support services;

• To continue efforts to provide inclusive education to all children, including those with special needs.

We wish the Delegation of Uzbekistan a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!