**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

31st session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Malta***

14 November 2018

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the high level Delegation of Malta and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria recognizes the significant progress of Malta in the field of promotion and protection of human rights since the second cycle of UPR.

We commend the strong commitment of the Maltese Government to promote more balanced representation of women in political and public life. Bulgaria recognizes the enactment of the Child Protection (Alternative Care) Act in January 2017 and the drawing up of a National Children’s Policy which is in conformity with the objectives of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We note with appreciation that Malta has established the post of Parliamentary Secretary (Junior Minister) for Persons with Disabilities within the Ministry for the Family, Children’s Rights and Social Solidarity and has formalized the participation of persons with disabilities in decision making by amending a number of legal acts to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in the governing bodies of different public entities.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Malta:

1. To take further steps to provide welfare services and assistance to all persons with disabilities, especially children;
2. To continue the fight against trafficking in human beings through improving inter-agency cooperation, enhancing victim assistance services, training government officials, raising public awareness and other relevant initiatives.

We wish the Delegation of Malta a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. President!