**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the People’s Republic of China***

6 November 2018

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of the People’s Republic of China and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

We recognize the progress in implementation of China’s 3rd National Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2016-2020, the measures, taken by the Chinese Government to eliminate absolute poverty by 2020 and the improvement of living standards of vast sections of population. Bulgaria appreciates the increase of average life expectancy and the drop of the infant mortality in recent years, as well as the integration of the women’s development in the overall economic and social development planning in China.

Our delegation acknowledges that Chinese legal regulations related to re-education through labour have been repealed and calls for complete discontinuation of such practices.

We encourage China to take additional appropriate steps aimed at effective implementation of the ratified international human rights instruments, enacted legislation and adopted public policies.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to China:

• To consider establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the principles, relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles);

• To undertake further efforts to strengthen the protection of the rights of children, women, elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

We wish the Delegation of China a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!