**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

32nd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of New Zealand***

21 January 2019

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of New Zealand and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with satisfaction that most of the accepted recommendations of the Second UPR have been or are being implemented by New Zealand. We appreciate highly that the national report also outlines new and emerging issues that have not been included in previous UPR reporting of the country.

We note with appreciation that the mandate of the Human Rights Commission was strengthened in 2016 by the adoption of amendments to the Human Rights Act by the Parliament. Bulgaria commends the high level of women’s representation amongst senior leaders of the public service in New Zealand, which has reached 47.9% in 2017 and the ongoing trend towards achievement of 50% representation of women amongst senior leaders of the public service in the country around 2020.

Bulgaria would like to highlight the whole-of-sector and child centered approach of the Ministry for Children, which became operational in 2017. We welcome the adoption of the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 and the development of an outcome Framework to enable monitoring of its implementation.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to New Zealand:

• Develop a national strategy for the promotion and protection of the rights of all children in implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child;

• Continue its efforts to extend welfare services and assistance to all persons with disabilities.

We wish the Delegation of New Zealand a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President!