**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Slovakia***

28 January 2019

Mr. President,

Bulgaria cordially welcomes the Delegation of Slovakia and thanks H.E. Mr. František Ružička, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation that Slovakia has implemented or is implementing the accepted recommendations of the Second UPR. We praise the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as independent bodies, carrying out their mandates separately from the Slovak National Center for Human Rights and the Public Defender of Rights (the Ombudsperson).

Commendable are the adoption and the progress in implementation of the Slovak National Strategy on Promotion of Human Rights, the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the years 2014-2019, the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence and the National Strategy for Roma Integration by 2020.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Complete the legislative procedure ensuring that the Slovak National Center for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and can apply for re-accreditation with Status A.
2. Take further steps to provide welfare services and social assistance to all persons with disabilities, especially children.

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

Thank you, Mr. President!