**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the Dominican Republic***

30 January 2019

Thank you, Mme Vice-President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of the Dominican Republic and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria commends the achievements by the Government of the Dominican Republic in implementing the recommendations of the second UPR of the country and in particular the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC) and the adoption of the National Development Strategy (2010-2030).

We note the progress of the Dominican Republic in reducing the gender gap, especially through taking appropriate steps in the areas of health and education. We acknowledge the improved international positioning of the country according to the Global Gender Gap 2017.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Consider inclusion of action lines on persons with disabilities in the National Development Strategy (2010-2030);
2. Further strengthen the National Council for Children and Adolescents and provide it with sufficient financial and technical resources needed to fulfil its mandate;
3. Consider adoption of legislation that will establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for both men and women.

We wish the Delegation of the Dominican Republic a successful review!

Thank You, Mme Vice-President!