**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

33rd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Brunei Darussalam***

10 May 2018

Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria takes note that the national report of Brunei Darussalam attributes particular attention to the process of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to the elimination of poverty, attaining zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, quality education, gender equality, etc.

We recognize the ratification by Brunei Darussalam of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in April 2016 and the commitment to advancing the rights and welfare of differently-abled persons. We would like to highlight as well the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in May 2016 on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Nevertheless, Bulgaria shares the concern of a number of countries and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the decision of the Government of Brunei Darussalam to fully implement the Shariah Penal Code Order 2013, as of 3 April 2019.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Brunei Darussalam:

1) Repeal the new punitive measures of the Shariah Penal Code Order 2013, and ensure that the implementation of this law will not infringe on human rights, and will be fully consistent with the international and regional human rights commitments and obligations undertaken by Brunei Darussalam;

2) Take measures to appropriately integrate, consistently interpret and apply the principle of the best interests of the child in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions;

3) Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to education. Allocate sufficient human and financial resources for schools to strengthen their inclusive education;

4) Strengthen the policy towards equality between women and men and the empowerment and advancement of women.

We wish the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. President!