**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Costa Rica***

13 May 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of Costa Rica and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the adoption of the 2014-2025 National Policy for a Society Free from Racism, Racial discrimination and Xenophobia and its 2015-2018 Action Plan.

Bulgaria commends the Government of Costa Rica for the outstanding environmental record of the country. However, we believe that additional measures need to be adopted to promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, to combat desertification and to halt land degradation and biodiversity loss. We believe that these measures will have favorable impact on the elimination of poverty and hunger, providing good health, improving standard of living, etc.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector and monitor compliance with employment quotas in the public sector;
2. Take steps to guarantee the effective implementation of juvenile rehabilitation programmes;
3. Take measures to progressively introduce free higher education.

We wish the Delegation of Costa Rica a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!