**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Ethiopia***

14 May 2019

Mr. President,

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

Bulgaria recognizes the wide range of reforms which have been launched by the Government led by the Prime Minister, Dr. Abiy Ahmed in Ethiopia since April 2018. These reforms have positively transformed the socio-economic and human rights landscape in the country.

We acknowledge the strong commitment of Ethiopia to the protection of the rights of women and their empowerment, as well as the engagement of the Government in combating trafficking in human beings and its increased contribution to the international cooperation in this respect.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take appropriate measures to strengthen the capacity and the independence of the Ethiopian National Human Rights Commission, the Ombudsman and the judiciary;
2. Continue efforts to address prejudice against children with disabilities, and ensure them equal access to social and health-care services and inclusive education.

We wish the Delegation of Ethiopia a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!