**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo***

7 May 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

Bulgaria would like to highlight the positive developments in the legal and institutional framework of the DRC, as presented in its national report. We welcome the accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission with A- status in 2018. We note the adoption of the National Plan to End Child Marriage (2017 – 2021), the Sectoral Strategy for Education and Training (2016 – 2025), as well as the updated National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take all necessary measures to ensure universal, free birth registration, including by reviewing the civil registration law, implementing “catch-up” policies and strengthening cooperation with health centres and maternities.
2. Combat all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of children. Ensure that such cases are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted. Provide to the victims adequate protection and support, including through strengthened social services, awareness raising and access to justice.
3. Take further steps to advance women participation in the political and public live.

We wish the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!