**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Cote d’Ivoire***

7 May 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of Cote d’Ivoire and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

Bulgaria appreciates the adoption of Cote d’Ivoire’s new Constitution in 2016 which proclaims strong protection of human rights, civil liberties and dignity of the individual.

We would like to highlight the ratification by Cote d’Ivoire of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption in line with the recommendations of the second UPR.

Bulgaria commends the creation of the National Human Rights Council on 30 November 2018, which replaced the National Human Rights Commission, and the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. We also recognize that the National Development Plan of Cote d’Ivoire for the period 2016-2020 underscores acceleration of the development of human capital and the promotion of social well-being

Bulgaria notes with disappointment the slow progress in delivering justice for victims of the 2010-2011 post-election violence and the impunity for the majority of perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take appropriate measures to provide sufficient financial resources and full independence of the National Human Rights Council;
2. Review all legal provisions that impede the equal participation and advancement of women in public and political affairs. Undertake appropriate measures to guarantee better representation of women in public affairs and encourage women to stand for election to political positions;
3. Adopt a national policy on promotion and protection of the rights of children and young people.

We wish the Delegation of Cote d’Ivoire a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!