**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

34nd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Angola***

7 November 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the high level Delegation of Angola and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria would like to highlight the recent ratification by Angola of major international human rights instruments such as the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at abolition of the death penalty, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We acknowledge the considerable efforts of the Government of Angola to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Our delegation appreciates that significant policy documents such as the National Development Plan 2013-2018, National Development Plan 2019-2022, National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity, etc. have incorporated provisions on equality, non-discrimination, right to education, right to health, etc. in line with the recommendations made by States to Angola during the second UPR cycle.

Bulgaria recognizes that the current membership of Angola of the Human Rights Council and its previous two consecutive memberships of the Council in the period 2007-2013 are an expression of the Angolan commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take further steps to advance women participation in the political and public life, and continue promoting economic empowerment of women, in particular in rural areas.
2. Ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care, social assistance and inclusive education, and intensify measures to address prejudice against such children.

We wish the Delegation of Angola a successful outcome of the review!

Thank you, Mr. President!