**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the Bosnia and Herzegovina***

13 November 2019

Mme Vice-President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the high level Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

We would like to highlight that Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country candidate for accession to the European Union has undertaken consistent efforts to align its legislation in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms with the European legal standards. Still, some challenges remain unaddressed, such as the European Court of Human Rights judgements and the “two schools under one roof” practice.

We recognize the advancement of Bosna and Herzegovina in developing institutional capacity for the equality between women and men.

We acknowledge the ratification by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communication Procedure in 2017 and the successful implementation of the Action Plan for Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015-2018 that are in line with the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Bosnia and Herzegovina:

1. Expand inclusiveness and strengthen the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and other persons belonging to vulnerable social groups.

2. Provide access to education to all children and protect the right to learn their mother tongue in an inclusive and tolerant education system that will prevent assimilation.

We wish the Delegation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina a successful review!

Thank you, Mme Vice-President!