**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of the Islamic Republic of Iran***

8 November 2018

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria wishes to highlight the continuous efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide shelter, healthcare, education and other basic services to a large number of Afghan refugees.

Furthermore, we note the adoption in May 2018 by the Iranian Parliament of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

However, Bulgaria remains warried about the use of death penalty, particularly of juvenile offenders and minors, and calls upon the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to halt all capital punishments.

Bulgaria recommends to the Islamic Republic of Iran to:

1. Strengthen its efforts to further reduce poverty, in particular in provinces populated by persons, belonging to ethnic minorities.

2) Further promote women’s rights, strengthen policies and measures to combat violence against them and facilitate their participation in political, social and professional spheres.

We wish the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!