**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Italy***

4 November 2019

Mr. President,

Bulgaria extends warm welcome to the distinguished high level Delegation of Italy and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria would like to highlight that Italy has implemented 153 out of 176 recommendations, accepted under UPR Cycle 2, and the remaining accepted recommendations are in the process of advanced implementation.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation the enactment by the Italian Parliament of Law № 97/2018 that has provided a progressive legal framework for the protection of the rights of unaccompanied and separated children who have arrived in Italy.

We acknowledge that as a result of the last elections, the representation of women in the Italian Parliament has increased to 35.4%.

Bulgaria commends that pursuant to the Law № 97/2018 concerning reorganization of competences of ministries, a new post of Minister for Family Affairs and Persons with Disabilities was establishes with a wide range competence on protection of the rights of the child and persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Italy:

1*.* Conclude the process leading to the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.

2. Continue to take appropriate measures to improve the quality of inclusive education for children with disabilities and ensure their equal access to all levels of education and vocational training.

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

Thank you, Mr. President!