**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Kazakhstan***

7 November 2019

Mr. President,

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

Bulgaria notes with satisfaction the achievements of Kazakhstan in creating favourable conditions for peaceful interethnic relations in the country, We appreciate that the authorities of Kazakhstan are supportive of the aspirations of persons, belonging to various ethnic minorities in the country, including to the Bulgarian ethnic minority, to revive, preserve and develop their language, culture and traditions.

We would like to highlight that Kazakhstan has the highest women’s representation in parliaments of Central Asia and its government has set a target of achieving 30% for the share of women in decision-making positions in the ministries and agencies, as well as in the public and corporate sectors of economy by 2030. Bulgaria acknowledges the establishment of the institution of the Commissioner (Ombudsman) on the Rights of the Child and encourages the authorities of Kazakhstan to provide it with sufficient staff and financial resources. We recognize the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Kazakhstan in 2015.

Bulgaria encourages Kazakhstan to keep strengthening the role of state institutions as primary guarantor of the rights of its citizens, including of their civil and political rights.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Kazakhstan:

1. Take further steps to ensure that the rights of the persons, belonging to national minorities are protected, including their right of self-identification, right to learn their mother tongue, etc.

1. Exert additional efforts to fully include persons with disabilities in society, in particular in the areas of education, labour and legal capacity, and to discontinue their institutionalization and involuntary treatment.

We wish the Delegation of Kazakhstan a successful review!

Thank you, Mr. President!