**UPR 34th Session**

**(Geneva, 4-15 Nov 2019)**

**Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Statement by Greece**

**1:35 mn**

Thank you Mr President.

Greece warmly welcomes the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UPR.

We commend the country’s efforts and its readiness to align its Constitution and legislation to international, as well as European legal standards within the framework of its European path, though challenges remain. We welcome the adoption of numerous measures contributing to the protection and promotion of Human rights, including the Amendments to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, and the Law on Missing Persons, as well as of the new strategy to advance the position of persons with disabilities [for 2016–2021]. Furthermore, we commend Bosnia and Herzegovina for the adoption of National Action Plans on Gender equality and of annual plans for their step by step implementation. [We appreciate the efforts made to eliminate discrimination against Roma, including the improvement in birth registration and enrolment of Roma children in schools.]

**Greece recommends that Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

1. Strengthen efforts to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman enjoys the financial autonomy and human resources required to function effectively, in compliance with the Paris Principles

2. Guarantee freedom of expression and of the media and the protection of journalists, notably by ensuring the appropriate judicial follow-up to cases of threats and violence against journalists and media workers

3. Strengthen efforts towards ensuring equal rights to all citizens, and enabling political representation in a way that would fully reflect the richness of the country’s ethnic diversity

Greece wishes the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina success in implementing the recommendations received today.

 I thank you