**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

35th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

***Review of Armenia***

23 January 2020

Mme. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the high level Delegation of Armenia and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation that the democratic changes that have occurred in Armenia since the spring of 2018 have given a new impetus to the reforms in the country and particularly have accelerated the progress in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We believe that the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Armenia signed in 2017 and the subsequent adoption of the Roadmap for its implementation facilitate strengthening of the EU – Armenian cooperation in the field of human rights.

We commend the recent submission by the Government of Armenia of the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection and the Plan of Action 2020-2022 to the Parliament.

Bulgaria acknowledges the steps that have been taken in Armenia towards equality between women and men and empowerment of women, particularly in the ICT sector.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Armenia:

1) Continue efforts, in partnership with UNICEF and local NGOs, to address abandonment of children born with health issues and disabilities at the level of maternity hospitals.

2) Take further measures to provide early warning and care options for children with various types of disabilities in an inclusive setting.

We wish the Delegation of Armenia a successful review!

Thank you, Mme. President!