**Statement by Bulgaria**

United Nations Human Rights Council

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

***Review of Turkey***

28 January 2020

Mme. President,

Bulgaria welcomes the distinguished Delegation of Turkey.

Bulgaria notes with appreciation that Non-Muslim Turkish citizens, including Bulgarian Christians who are Turkish citizens, practice their religion without any impediment. In this context we praise the complete renovation of the so called Bulgarian Iron Church in Istanbul.

We encourage Turkey to ensure that the legitimate enforcement of anti-terrorist legislation does not infringe on the fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of opinion and expression.

Bulgaria would like to make the following recommendations to Turkey:

1. Undertake the adequate steps concerning the property claims of persons from Bulgarian identity from eastern Thrace, following our recommendations from the First UPR Cycle.

2. Continue its efforts to ensure that the national laws protect freedom of expression online and offline.

We wish the Delegation of Turkey a successful review!

Thank you, Mme. President!