**Closing remarks by the Republic of Bulgaria**

**On the draft report of the Working party on the Universal Periodic Review**

**10 November 2020**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the context of its participation in the 36th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Bulgaria would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Member States for their recommendations made in a constructive spirit.

We would like to announce that all recommendations will be carefully examined by the relevant ministries. Stakeholders at national level will be informed about the outcome from this third UPR cycle. The Government will continue to mobilize all state institutions in terms of upholding the human rights situation at national level.

The outcome of the session will be shared with the NGOs represented at the National Coordination Mechanism for Human Rights.

We also would like to thank all countries that addressed advance questions to Bulgaria. It was helpful for us in our preparations and we hope that in our presentation we managed to answer most of them. We owe special thanks to the Troika – namely, the distinguished representatives of Japan, Senegal and Slovakia, for their invaluable support in the process of preparing the draft report.

Last but not least, we thank the Secretariat for organizing this UPR session in a safe and secure environment, given the challenges we all face due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the course of the review, we have noted that some topics are of particular importance to delegations, such as the protection of the rights of the child and persons with disabilities, the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment, the fight against domestic violence, hate speech and hate crimes and the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, we could not address one very important topic – the freedom of media.

In the remaining minutes of our participation in this Working Group’s session, I would like to give the floor to the Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr. Rumen DIMITROV, to deliver a brief intervention on media freedom.

We look forward to continue this dialogue with a view to protect and promote the human rights for all.

**Thank you!**

**(*pre-recorded video message – 3 min*)**

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