*Check against delivery*

Human Rights Council

36th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Bulgaria

Intervention by Ukraine

*(November 6, 2020)*

Madame President,

Ukraine welcomes the delegation of Bulgaria and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

We acknowledge the efforts of Bulgaria that have led to notable progress in implementation of the human rights standards over the last reporting cycle, in particular through further ratifications of various international instruments, productive cooperation with HRC special procedures, strengthening of institutional and legislative base in the fields of gender equality, social services, socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups, independence of the judiciary and others.

We believe that continued improvement of human rights situation will benefit from implementation of the following recommendations:

- to ratify ICPPED;

- to finalize the procedure of full accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons;

- to consider amending the Family Code and removing exceptions that allowed marriage under the age of 18;

- to complete alignment of the juvenile justice system with international standards.

I thank you.