**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**36th SESSION**

**REVIEW OF BULGARIA**

**INTERVENTION BY TURKEY**

**(6 November 2020)**

Madame President,

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Bulgaria and thank for the comprehensive presentation today.

We commend Bulgaria for continuing to take necessary measures for protection of mosques and other religious sites against acts of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

We encourage Bulgaria to provide adequate and further opportunities to citizens who would like to study their mother tongue.

Having said that, **we recommend** Bulgaria to:

1. Ensure that individuals encounter no obstacles on the use and recognition of their names.

2. Take necessary steps to make sure that local governments refrain from replacing names of Turkish geographical places with Bulgarian ones as it was recently done by the Stara Zagora Municipal Council by replacing 838 Turkish geographical place names.

3. Expedite the judicial process regarding the restitution of the waqf properties confiscated by the state in the totalitarian regime period.

4. Prosecute the individuals who committed crimes against minorities under the communist regime. The protracted case of Belene concentration camp should finally serve justice as most of the victims are in their very old age.

5. Change its legislation to allow political campaigning in mother tongue as prescribed in the OSCE report dated 2017.

I thank you.