



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BULGARIA**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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11 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10028, Tel: (212) 737 4790, Fax: (212) 472 9865, e-mail: bulgaria@un.int

**71 UNGA  
Third Committee**

**Agenda Item 27: Advancement of Women**

**General Statements**

**H.E. Mr. Georgi Panayotov, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN**

***New York, 11 October 2016***

**Madam Chair,**

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. I would like to add some elements in my national capacity.

The Government of Bulgaria attaches great importance to gender equality and views it as an absolute necessity for the full realization of human rights and the functioning of democracy. Equality before the law is a fundamental principle enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria. Women and men in Bulgaria enjoy equal civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Gender-based discrimination is prohibited by law.

Bulgaria has long traditions in promoting gender equality and in the last more than 25 years has made substantial progress with regard to women's empowerment. The Government is constantly upgrading the national legislation to integrate a gender perspective. Earlier this year the Bulgarian Parliament passed a new Law on Equality between Women and Men which establishes the principle of equality as a coordinated state policy.

Bulgaria has recently joined the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and is fully committed to its implementation through the adoption of special legislative measures and the development of relevant policies and programmes to prevent and combat violence against women and girls in all its forms.

The Bulgarian Government is currently upgrading the National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality with the aim to further strengthening the provisions related to equal treatment, equal access to resources and equal participation in decision-making.

Special policies are enacted also for ensuring equal access of women and men to professional training, equal participation in the labour market and equal pay for equal work. The measures include introducing flexible working hours and professional mobility, providing opportunities to combine career and family life and promoting the role of the father in the family, ensuring special protection for working women and affirmative action for women's entrepreneurship when they are the less represented sex, etc. These measures are of particular importance not only for the economic empowerment of women but also for overcoming the stereotypes based on the perceived social roles of women and men.

**Madam Chair,**

In the last 25 years the role of Bulgarian women in the political life has steadily increased. For two terms already women hold the office of President of the National Assembly and Mayor of Sofia. The Ombudsman of Bulgaria is a woman. Two of the Deputy Prime Ministers and half of the Ministers in the Bulgarian Government are women. For the first time a woman holds the office of Minister of Home Affairs. Two thirds of the magistrates in the national courts at all levels are women. One third of the judges in the Constitutional Court are women. The prevailing majority of civil servants in the central and local administrations in Bulgaria are women.

Women's participation in decision-making processes at all levels in Bulgaria is indicative of the strong commitment of the Bulgarian Government to achieving full equality between women and men in all areas of the political and public life and the realization of all human rights for women and girls.

Bulgaria fully supports also UN-Women's initiative "Planet 50-50 by 2030" and is committed to further contributing to the global efforts aimed at achieving full gender equality in the next fifteen years.

**Thank you, Madam Chair!**