



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BULGARIA**

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

**72 UNGA
Third Committee**

Agenda Item 28: Advancement of Women

General Statements

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

New York, 6 October 2017

Mr. Chair,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and an absolute necessity for the realization of all other human rights.

Ensuring gender equality is instrumental also for building inclusive societies and achieving sustainable development for all. As President of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD Convention Bulgaria is strongly advocating for the full realization of the human rights of women and girls with disabilities and for ensuring their active participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Bulgaria has long traditions in promoting gender equality and the human rights of women and girls, and in the last more than two decades has made substantial progress with regard to women's empowerment and women's participation in decision-making at all levels.

Gender equality and non-discrimination as stipulated in the CEDAW Convention are basic principles enshrined in the Constitution of Bulgaria and have been successfully mainstreamed in national legislation, policies and programmes.

In 2016 the Bulgarian Government adopted a new Law on Equality between Women and Men which further strengthened the principle of equality as a coordinated state policy. Last year Bulgaria signed also the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and is currently amending the relevant legislation to ensure its full implementation.

Mr. Chair,

Gender equality is particularly important from an economic perspective and in Bulgaria we can already see the positive results for the economy from the increased participation of women in the labour market. This has been achieved through a number of strategic initiatives aimed at enabling women to pursue a career, including legislative and policy measures for ensuring equal treatment, equal economic independence and equal pay for work of equal value, as well as targeted funding.

These measures contribute also to overcoming the stereotypes based on the perceived social roles of women and men which is instrumental for achieving full gender equality.

The remarkable progress achieved by Bulgaria with regard to gender equality is the result of a long-term, sustained and coordinated policy aimed at reducing the differences between women and men in employment, education and scientific research while at the same time promoting women's equal participation in all spheres of the political, social and economic life, especially at management and high-profile positions.

Civil society in Bulgaria also plays a crucial role in promoting gender equality by actively participating in the elaboration of legislation and policies for the implementation of the relevant international human rights instruments, and by complementing the efforts of the Government for eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and ensuring the full realization of the human rights of women and girls.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!