

Republic of Bulgaria –Statement
Ambassador Georgi Panayotov, Permanent Representative

International Day of Education Launch of the Group of Friends of Education and Lifelong Learning

Friday, 25 January at 10.00 – 18.00 (Trusteeship Council, UNHQ)

Mr. Chair,

Please allow me to commend the President of the General Assembly for organizing today's commemoration, while also acknowledging UNESCO's efforts. As a member of the Group of Friends of Education, I would like align Bulgaria with the statement, delivered on behalf of the Group.

Bulgaria is committed to invest in better education not only on national but also on regional level. In this regard, we are involved in the implementation of regional education projects. A good example is a project which Bulgaria has implemented in co-operation with UNICEF on children's rights in Armenia and Georgia, focused on the Bulgarian's experience and good practices.. Children issues will continue to be in the focus of Bulgarian Official development assistance (ODA). We must leave no child behind, while provide opportunities for quality and inclusive education for all. My country works towards ensuring inclusiveness for all and especially children with disabilities, including by improving our national education system..The development of inclusive and appropriate tools for education is crucial to awareness-raising and empowerment of children, including children with disabilities, in order to enable them to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to contribute to their economic, social, and cultural development. Equal access to quality education and lifelong learning enables persons with disabilities to participate meaningfully in the society

As a member of the Human Rights Council, Bulgaria has set the topic of “children with disabilities and their access to education” as one of its main priorities. Last year, we delivered a Joint Statement, which received the endorsement of 102 states. In 2019, in cooperation with UNICEF in Geneva, we introduced a resolution on the topic of “Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education” which was unanimously adopted.

Bulgaria fully subscribes to the right of everyone to quality education and acknowledges the role it has in the framework of preventing hate speech and combating human rights violations and abuses.

Thank you!