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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on Advancing Gender Equality in the AI-Driven Digital Age: 6th horizontal review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the Member States and the EU institutions - <i>Approval</i> - <i>Statement by the BG delegation</i>

Delegations will find in the annex a statement by the BG delegation in relation to the abovementioned conclusions.

Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria
on the Council Conclusions on Advancing Gender Equality in the AI-Driven Digital
Age: 6th horizontal review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the
Member States and the EU institutions

The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring equality and combating discrimination as fundamental values of the European Union.

In 2018, the Bulgarian Constitutional Court adopted a decision stating that the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('Istanbul Convention') promotes legal concepts related to the notion of 'gender' that are incompatible with the fundamental principles of the Bulgarian Constitution. Moreover, in 2021 the Constitutional Court further clarified that the notion of 'sex' used in the Constitution, could, in the context of the national legal order, be understood in its biological sense only (men and women).

Recognising the importance of the topic and the opportunities and challenges of using artificial intelligence to promote gender equality, Bulgaria supports the adoption of the Conclusions, declaring that it interprets all gender-related terminology in them strictly within the binary concept of gender. In addition, it will interpret the term 'cross-sectoral approach' exclusively in the context of the discriminatory grounds recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
