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**Draft report of the Working Group on the
Universal Periodic Review***

Belgium

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its eleventh session from 2 to 13 May 2011. The review of Belgium was held at the 1st meeting on 2 May 2011. The delegation of Belgium was headed by Mr. Steven Vanackere, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. At its 5th meeting held on 4 May 2011, the Working Group adopted the report on Belgium.
2. On 21 June 2010, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Belgium: Cuba, Japan and Nigeria.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1, the following documents were issued for the review of Belgium:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/11/BEL/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/11/BEL/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/11/BEL/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Belgium through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Dans son exposé introductif, M. Steven Vanackere, Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères, a tout d'abord tenu à souligner l'importance que la Belgique accordait aux droits de l'homme et à l'Examen périodique universel (ci-après, l'« EPU »).
6. Il a ensuite abordé la structure particulière de l'Etat belge ; celle d'un Etat fédéral dans lequel la pleine réalisation des droits de l'homme relevait de différents niveaux de pouvoir (Etat fédéral, Communautés et Régions). Les trois langues officielles de la Belgique contribuent à sa richesse culturelle, mais soulèvent parfois des questions pratiques. Le Ministre a indiqué qu'il était nécessaire de garder cette réalité à l'esprit pour pouvoir apprécier correctement les actions entreprises par les autorités belges dans le domaine des droits de l'homme.
7. La Belgique a estimé que son bilan en matière de droits de l'homme était positif. Les droits fondamentaux sont consacrés dans la Constitution et sont respectés dans les faits. Bien entendu, des progrès peuvent encore être réalisés.
8. La Belgique est partie aux principales Conventions internationales en matière de droits de l'homme. Le Ministre a précisé que plusieurs procédures de ratification additionnelles étaient en cours.
9. La création d'une éventuelle institution nationale des droits de l'homme conforme aux Principes de Paris est à l'étude.

10. Des mesures concrètes – législatives ou autres – ont été prises pour lutter contre toutes les formes de discrimination, notamment celles fondées sur le sexe, la prétendue « race », la religion, l'orientation sexuelle ou le handicap.

11. Les droits des femmes et des enfants sont également au centre des préoccupations de la Belgique, comme en témoignent récemment le Programme national de réforme, qui comprend notamment des mesures en faveur de l'égalité hommes-femmes sur le marché de l'emploi, ou la récente Commission parlementaire sur les abus sexuels envers des mineurs dans l'Eglise.

12. Le Ministre s'est étendu sur les problèmes de la surpopulation carcérale et du manque de capacités d'accueil pour les demandeurs d'asile, de même que sur les actions entreprises pour y remédier.

13. La Belgique a enfin souligné que son rapport national avait été rédigé en coopération étroite avec la société civile.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

14. During the interactive dialogue, 49 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report. A number of delegations welcomed the participative approach in drafting the national report and the commitment showed by Belgium to the UPR mechanism

15. India took positive note of initiatives mentioned in the national report. It inquired on steps taken to address concerns regarding discrimination against foreigners and minorities; the observation that foreigners received more severe sentences in the penal system; the lack of official recognition of minorities and the lack of a provision declaring illegal organisations that incite racial discrimination; and a restrictive definition of child pornography. India made a recommendation.

16. Algeria welcomed the launch of a National Action Plan against Racism and congratulated Belgium for its efforts towards the ratification of most international human rights instruments. It inquired why the 59 measures included in its federal plan to combat poverty did not succeed in improving the situation. Algeria made recommendations.

17. Canada stated that Belgium could make further improvements to combat sexual exploitation of children. Canada also believed that Belgium should continue its action to combat violence against women. It was aware of the concerns raised by the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe and the European Commission over racism and intolerance, particularly discrimination based on language in the Flemish region. Canada made recommendations.

18. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the activities of the Centre for Equal Opportunity and Action to Combat Racism. It recalled that the Committee on the Rights of the Child encouraged Belgium to pursue its international cooperation aimed at preventing and punishing sexual exploitation of children. It welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for the Rights of the Child and recalled the recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on gender equality. The Republic of Moldova made recommendations.

19. The Russian Federation stated that the information collected by the United Nations demonstrated the concerns of Treaty Bodies regarding racist/anti-Semitic activities and statements of Islamophobic nature. There was also a dimension of discrimination against foreigners and representatives of national and ethnic minorities, migrant workers and members of their families, members of Muslim societies and the Roma. The Russian Federation made recommendations.

20. Hungary welcomed the timely submission by Belgium of its reports to treaty bodies. While asking for the implementation of the national action plan for children, it noted with satisfaction the constitutional provisions on children's rights. Hungary referred to the importance of language diversity and was concerned that health workers remained unaware of legal provisions prohibiting female genital mutilation. Hungary made recommendations.
21. The Czech Republic appreciated the measures adopted by Belgium to enhance its legal and institutional mechanisms aimed at combating racial discrimination. However, it noted that de facto discrimination against persons belonging to ethnic and national minorities, in particular migrant workers and members of their families, still existed among some sectors of the population. The Czech Republic made recommendations.
22. Austria asked what additional measures had been adopted regarding reports of excessive use of force by the police. It also requested information on the Master Plan to improve conditions of detention and on the timeline for the adoption and implementation of the national action plan against domestic violence 2010–2014. Austria made recommendations.
23. France inquired on deadlines relating to the ratification of various international human rights instruments. It recalled that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted that Belgian law did not provide for the disbandment of organisations inciting racial hatred. France mentioned the proposals made by a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry in its report on sexual abuse against children in March 2011. France made recommendations.
24. Thailand commended Belgium for its commitment to promote and protect human rights for all, particularly the vulnerable groups. Thailand noted its efforts to strengthen its penal system and administration of justice. Thailand appreciated its active role in the humanitarian field and welcomed its action plan to combat trafficking in persons, in addition to its support to the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Thailand made recommendations.
25. Estonia noted that Belgium was party to all main human rights instruments and fully cooperated with special procedures. It encouraged Belgium to continue efforts to combat domestic violence. Estonia asked for additional information on poverty reduction and inquired whether the situation of low income groups had improved with the implementation of the Federal Poverty Reduction plan. It also asked about the process of the ratification of OPCAT.
26. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland referred to the positive contribution to the human rights situation of the establishment of a national human rights institution. It inquired on how Belgium will address the situation of asylum seekers who did not enjoy their right to housing and the child protection gaps in its legislation. It noted the absence of comprehensive legislation to protect women from domestic abuse and the resurgence of anti-Semitic and racist acts. The United Kingdom made recommendations.
27. Poland appreciated Belgium's commitment to the cooperation with the United Nations Special Procedures and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Poland welcomed numerous developments in the legal and institutional system. Poland, however, referred to the finding of the Committee on the Rights of the Child that there were still areas where further steps should be taken in order to ensure children's rights. Poland made recommendations.
28. Slovenia asked for information on the implementation of the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. It also asked about follow up to the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to officially recognize the need to protect the cultural diversity of minorities and consider ratifying the

Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Slovenia made a recommendation.

29. Egypt inquired about any visits by special procedures to be organised. While recognizing the legal apparatus to combat racism and xenophobia and that the fight against racism was among Belgium's priorities, Egypt expressed concerns at the lack of specific provisions prohibiting the promotion and incitement to racial discrimination. Egypt expressed concern over the federal implementation of policies addressing child sexual exploitation and over the ban of headscarves in schools. Egypt made recommendations.

30. Afghanistan welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for the Rights of the Child in 2005 and steps taken to promote equal opportunities and combat racism. It took note that some challenges in the fields of the Rights of the Child and gender equality still remained on the ground. Afghanistan asked what further measures Belgium took to combat racism. Afghanistan made recommendations.

31. Indonesia welcomed the fact that a monitoring mechanism to forcible removals was being developed and that efforts were being made to increase the number and quality of facilities for asylum seekers. It also commended efforts to combat racism, in particular through action by the Centre for Equal Opportunity and Action to Combat Racism. Indonesia made recommendations.

32. While commending Belgium on the adoption of an action plan to combat trafficking in human beings, Germany asked how Belgium followed up on the recommendations by the Human Rights Committee to address the insufficient means to assist victims of trafficking. Germany also inquired on how Belgium followed up on the Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendation on the state of health of children from the most disadvantaged families and on punishing corporal punishment.

33. Sweden welcomed the positive developments regarding refugees and asylum-seekers in Belgium. It, however, noted the poor conditions in closed centres for migrants and the occurrence of use of excessive force during expulsion of migrants. Sweden asked Belgium to elaborate on further measures to enhance the conditions for asylum-seekers and migrants. It also asked Belgium to elaborate on the question of prisons' overcrowding. Sweden made recommendations.

34. Portugal referred to the observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on female genital mutilation and the fact that the law prohibiting this practice remained largely unknown. It asked about steps taken to raise awareness and combat the practice. Portugal noted that a national human rights commission had not yet been established. It made recommendations.

35. La Belgique étudie la possibilité de créer une institution nationale des droits de l'homme, en tenant compte notamment des mécanismes spécialisés qui existent déjà en la matière.

36. La Belgique est sur le point de ratifier la Convention sur les disparitions forcées et a entamé le processus de ratification du Protocole facultatif au Pacte international sur les droits économiques sociaux et culturels. Elle n'est pas en mesure de ratifier la Convention internationale sur la protection de tous les travailleurs migrants et des membres de leur famille, car elle confère des droits égaux aux travailleurs migrants en situation régulière ou irrégulière, ce qui est contraire aux politiques européennes et nationales de migration.

37. La Belgique a la volonté de ratifier le Protocole facultatif à la Convention contre la torture. S'agissant du mécanisme national de prévention, la Belgique explore entre autres l'option de l'élargissement du mandat d'une de ses institutions existantes.

38. Lors de la signature de la Convention cadre pour la protection des minorités, la Belgique a formulé une réserve visant à définir le concept de « minorité nationale ». Jusqu'à présent, il n'y a pas d'accord en Belgique sur une telle définition.

39. La Belgique est prête à vérifier si ses déclarations et réserves aux instruments internationaux en matière de droits de l'homme sont toujours pertinentes et justifiées, et éventuellement à les retirer.

40. La base de la lutte contre la discrimination et l'incitation à la haine repose sur trois lois contre le racisme, la discrimination et le négationnisme, complétées par le Plan d'action national de 2004. La Belgique a intensifié son action dans la lutte contre la xénophobie, l'antisémitisme et l'islamophobie, notamment par la mise sur pied de cellules de veille et de surveillance, la création d'une cellule « cyber-haine » et les poursuites judiciaires.

41. La législation belge ne permet pas l'interdiction de partis politiques, qui n'ont pas la personnalité juridique. Toutefois, les membres de partis peuvent être pénalement poursuivis pour des actes de violence, de discrimination et d'incitation à la haine. Les partis eux-mêmes peuvent être privés de financement public et leurs associations peuvent être dissoutes.

42. Aucune disposition légale n'interdit ou n'autorise le port du voile dans les écoles. Les établissements scolaires sont libres d'intégrer de telles dispositions dans leur règlement en fonction de leurs projets pédagogiques. La liberté de choix des parents est garantie en droit et en fait.

43. Avec un taux d'occupation carcéral de 118%, la Belgique connaît effectivement un problème de surpopulation, qui touche surtout les personnes en détention préventive. Plusieurs actions sont entreprises: alternatives à la détention, nouvelles prisons, location temporaire d'un établissement aux Pays-Bas, libérations anticipées, surveillance électronique, détentions limitées et accords interétatiques de transfèrement vers le pays d'origine.

44. Depuis 2000, la Belgique a abrogé un article qui permettait la détention des mineurs en prison pendant un maximum de 15 jours. Un mineur de 16 ans ou plus ne peut faire l'objet d'une mesure de dessaisissement que pour des faits graves et lorsque les règles en matière de protection de la jeunesse sont inadaptées. Les mineurs en détention sont placés dans des centres fermés afin de bénéficier d'un accompagnement spécifique.

45. La saturation du réseau d'accueil des demandeurs d'asile s'explique par une forte hausse des demandes d'asile. La hausse serait de 120% entre 2007 et 2011. Durant cette même période, la Belgique a créé presque 50% de places supplémentaires.

46. Que ce soit en milieu carcéral, lors de l'éloignement des étrangers ou en général, les éventuels abus concernant l'emploi de la force par la Police sont sanctionnés par des procédures disciplinaires et judiciaires. Les actes de la Police sont soumis au contrôle du pouvoir législatif (Comité P), du pouvoir judiciaire et du pouvoir exécutif (l'inspection générale de la police).

47. Belarus stated that it had positively assessed the broad scale of obligations undertaken by Belgium under international human rights treaties. Belarus, however, noted the low level of cooperation between the Special Procedures and Belgium, especially in answering to their questionnaires. Belgium had answered only five out of 26 questionnaires. Belarus made recommendations.

48. Mexico commended efforts made to protect human rights in the country. It particularly noted budgetary measures adopted to speed up the justice system, to promote the participation of women in the public life, and the full cooperation with special

procedures. It also noted that some challenges still existed, in particular in the fields of non-discrimination and inclusion of minorities. Mexico made recommendations.

49. Pakistan noted that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed its concerns in 2008 that Belgium had not adopted any legislation to implement Article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Pakistan wished to know how it intended to check activities of these racist organizations that might be detrimental to the efforts to build a tolerant society. Pakistan made recommendations.

50. The United States of America commended Belgium for proposing measures to combat employment discrimination but mentioned reported discrimination against members of ethnic minorities and de facto discrimination against migrant workers, members of the Muslim community and Roma. It expressed concern over conditions in prisons and detention facilities. The United States made recommendations.

51. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its concerns over a number of human rights issues, including the increase in Islamophobic remarks; multiple discriminations faced by Muslim girls resulting from the ban of headscarves in schools; de facto discrimination against certain foreigners and persons belonging to ethnic and national minorities; high number of child abuse cases; ill-treatment of detainees by prison staff, prison overcrowding, and the lack of adequate prison healthcare. The Islamic Republic of Iran made recommendations.

52. Australia noted the challenges faced by Belgium, including prison overcrowding and excessive use of force by the police. It welcomed the action plan to combat human trafficking and commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in 2009. Australia also welcomed efforts to combat racism and to promote gender equality. It encouraged Belgium to establish a national human rights commission. Australia made recommendations.

53. Argentina congratulated Belgium for measures that were being implemented to improve the situation of minorities as well as other measures on human rights issues. It made a recommendation.

54. The Netherlands noted that gender equality was an issue and expressed its interest in the quotas established in 2002. It expressed concerns over the slow judiciary system and regional discrepancies in the way justice was administered and noted the measures which had been introduced in this respect. It echoed concerns of the Committee on the Rights of the Child over trade in war material in regions where children took part in hostilities. The Netherlands made recommendations.

55. Norway commended Belgium for its efforts in children's rights, combating of racism, gender equality, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and for incorporating human rights in the Constitution. Although Belgium reacted swiftly during the asylum crisis this winter and improved the situation of asylum seekers living on the streets, Norway had concerns over Belgium's lack of structural capacity in receiving asylum seekers. Norway made recommendations.

56. Spain asked whether Belgium had the intention to follow up on and avoid as much as possible measures that impose obligations concerning language as a condition to accede to social benefits related to housing. It also inquired if Belgium had the intention to elaborate a action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights. Spain made recommendations.

57. Uzbekistan recalled the treaty bodies concerns over discrimination against women and gender inequalities, notably relating to female migrants and women belonging to minorities. It also mentioned the lack of provisions criminalising organisations promoting

racial discrimination and the spread of Islamophobia in the press and by political parties. Uzbekistan referred to the draft proposal to prohibit neo-Nazi demonstrations. Uzbekistan made recommendations.

58. Japan commended Belgium for its active commitment to the human rights promotion and expected that it would continue to implement measures in accordance with its international obligations. Japan welcomed Belgium efforts on gender equality but expressed concerns over persisting unequal treatment. Japan welcomed the steps being taken to address racial discrimination but echoed concerns by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Japan made recommendations.

59. Brazil expressed concern over the persistence of hate speech and the resurgence of racist acts. It noted that differences between men and women persisted, particularly in the labour market. Brazil also noted that domestic violence persists and that comprehensive legislation in this regard has not yet been adopted. It encouraged Belgium to pursue action to raise awareness of the past shared with Africa. Brazil made recommendations.

60. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed national human rights policies regarding civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It noted with regret the increase of racial discrimination and intolerance towards foreigners and echoed concerns over the conditions of detention of irregular migrants. It also mentioned the absence of a government for a long period and inquired about results achieved by the Centre for Equal Opportunity and Action to Combat Racism. It made recommendations.

61. La Belgique réitère son invitation ouverte et permanente à toutes les procédures spéciales.

62. La Belgique confirme que la procédure pour la reconnaissance de Bouddhisme devrait aboutir en 2012.

63. Les châtiments corporels ne constituent effectivement pas une infraction spécifique au regard de la législation belge, mais un nombre de dispositions pénales sont directement applicables à ces actes. Il y a en outre de multiples mécanismes de prévention, d'alerte et d'assistance pour protéger les enfants.

64. La Belgique a ratifié le Protocole facultatif à la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant concernant la vente d'enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la pornographie mettant en scène des enfants et a présenté son premier rapport sur la mise en œuvre de ce Protocole au Comité des droits de l'enfant en juin 2010. Le Protocole est mis en œuvre, tant au niveau fédéral, qu'au niveau des Communautés et Régions.

65. En Belgique, la Commission nationale des droits l'enfant est chargée du suivi et de la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Comité des droits de l'enfant.

66. Depuis 2003, les autorités fédérales, la société civile et des entreprises du secteur privé et public collaborent afin de prévenir la prostitution des enfants à l'étranger. Des campagnes de sensibilisation contre l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants ont été lancées.

67. La législation belge interdit l'exportation d'armes vers des pays qui recrutent des enfants-soldats. Dans le cadre des négociations en cours sur le Traité international sur les armes, la Belgique a fait une proposition visant spécifiquement à intégrer une référence à la problématique des enfants-soldats.

68. La lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes est une priorité pour la Police et pour le pouvoir judiciaire. Si le Code pénal belge ne comprend pas d'incrimination spécifique de la violence conjugale, la Belgique dispose d'un cadre pénal complet pour la combattre. En 2010, la Belgique a adopté un Plan d'action national de lutte contre la violence entre partenaires, qui étend le champ d'action aux mutilations génitales, aux crimes d'honneur et aux mariages forcés.

69. Sur la question des mutilations génitales féminines, la Belgique organise des formations spécifiques pour le personnel de la santé et de la petite enfance.
70. La Constitution belge garantit la mixité hommes-femmes dans tous les organes du pouvoir exécutif, tant au niveau fédéral, régional que local. Suite aux élections régionales du 2009 et aux élections fédérales du 2010, le pourcentage de femmes élues a également augmenté.
71. La Belgique a remercié la Norvège et l'Espagne pour avoir mentionné la question des droits des LGBT. La Belgique est très active dans ce domaine, tant au niveau national qu'international.
72. Concernant la lutte contre la pauvreté, la Belgique a indiqué que son taux de pauvreté national était de 15% et qu'elle avait établi un instrument statistique annuel : le « baromètre pauvreté ». La Belgique vise à réduire de 380.000 le nombre de personnes en risque de pauvreté pour 2020.
73. La Constitution belge et de nombreuses lois garantissent l'égalité pour les personnes atteintes d'un handicap et les protègent contre les discriminations. Les plaintes sont traitées par le Centre de l'Égalité des chances. La Belgique a ratifié le Convention des NU sur les droits des personnes handicapées, de même que son Protocole facultatif, et introduira son premier rapport cet été.
74. Malgré des améliorations du cadre législatif et des actions de lutte contre les discriminations, celles-ci persistent *de facto*, notamment concernant les Roms. Afin de résoudre ce problème, une stratégie nationale pour l'inclusion des Roms devrait être adoptée.
75. Palestine noted that Belgium had given attention to the respect of asylum seekers' and aliens' rights, in addition to their integration in the society. Since 1981, Belgium formulated a legal framework to combat racism and xenophobia as well as the law that repressed racially motivated acts. Palestine called upon Belgium to continue and intensify its efforts to protect human rights. Palestine made recommendations.
76. Morocco welcomed the measures adopted for the protection of migrants and inquired about efforts made to promote their integration. It also inquired on the composition and mandate of the Centre for Equal Opportunity and Action to Combat Racism. Morocco welcomed the legal apparatus to promote the freedom of religion and noted with satisfaction efforts made on human rights education. Morocco asked for more information on the 2009 Diversity Charter signed by the police. Morocco made a recommendation.
77. Chile expressed appreciation for the active participation of civil society in the elaboration of the national report. It also highlighted that human rights education, tolerance, gender equality, and the respect for diversity were an integral part of the educational system's programmes. Chile made recommendations.
78. Nigeria acknowledged Belgium's recognition of the importance of respecting the rights of migrants. Nigeria also noted the steps taken by Belgium to combat unemployment and increase labour force participation. Nigeria was, however, concerned at the marginal role retained by the Alien's Office for deciding on asylum applications and noted that the Council for Alien Disputes did not have investigative powers. Nigeria made recommendations.
79. Ecuador expressed appreciation for the importance given by Belgium to the UPR process, its constructive participation in the process and the broad consultations undertaken within the country, which demonstrate the importance of human rights in the country's public agenda. Ecuador made recommendations.

80. Slovakia highlighted the exemplary cooperation of Belgium with regional and international human rights mechanisms and commended Belgium for dedicating great deal of resources on protecting the rights of migrants. It also commended Belgium's efforts in improving the living conditions in its penitentiary facilities. Slovakia made recommendations.
81. Turkey attached importance to the finding of the National Institute of Criminal Statistics and Criminology that foreigners in the penal system received more severe sentences than people of Belgian origin. It welcomed the ongoing public debate regarding the establishment of an independent national human rights institution. It also shared its concerns over discrimination in accessing the labour market. Turkey made a recommendation.
82. South Africa inquired about steps taken to address concerns expressed by CERD over the lack of specific provisions declaring illegal and prohibiting organizations promoting racial discrimination. It also noted that the Human Rights Committee had expressed concerns about the resurgence of anti-Semitic and racist acts. South Africa thanked Belgium for the positive role it played during the World Conference Against Racism and made recommendations.
83. Burkina Faso welcomed Belgium's commitment for the promotion and protection of human rights and its standing cooperation with special procedures. Burkina Faso remained open to share experience and best practices with Belgium. Burkina Faso encouraged Belgium to consolidate its human rights promotion policy and made recommendations.
84. Malaysia commended Belgium for being a party to a significant number of human rights instruments. It noted that several Treaty Bodies had made observations on issues related to racism and racial discrimination and inquired whether Belgium intended to follow up on those recommendations to curb the spread of racial hatred and related phenomenon and to strengthen measures to prevent and combat xenophobia and racial prejudice. Malaysia made recommendations.
85. Bangladesh recalled that Belgium hosted the Third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC III) in 2001. It noted that that the commitment made during the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs and the committed net Official Development Assistance up to 0.7 percent of GDP had not been fully realized. Bangladesh also noted concerns by treaty bodies regarding discrimination based on race, religion and incidents of hate speech. Bangladesh made recommendations.
86. Djibouti noted the contribution of Belgium in the consolidation of the Human Rights Council. Djibouti made recommendations.
87. China commended Belgium on its progress in eradicating poverty and ensuring the right to housing and education. It also noted the efforts made in promoting the gender equality, ensuring the rights of migrants, and eradicating racial discrimination. China asked Belgium to elaborate on the specific measures for the right to housing and education to be enjoyed equally by the Roma and other minority groups.
88. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the amendments to the Constitution, which guaranteed the best interests of the child and gender equality, abolished the death penalty and guaranteed protection for foreigners commensurate with that afforded to Belgian nationals. Kyrgyzstan made recommendations.
89. Guatemala highlighted the emphasis given to the best interests of the child and the guarantees of the right to education and medical assistance. It requested information on measures adopted for the integration of foreigners so as to attain an intercultural and cohesive society. It urged Belgium to refrain from making distinctions between regular and

irregular migrants. It also urged the establishment of a national human rights mechanism. Guatemala made a recommendation.

90. La liberté de religion et la liberté d'expression sont protégées par la Constitution belge. L'Islam est reconnu en Belgique depuis 1974. La Belgique dispose d'un arsenal législatif étendu pour lutter contre les actes de discrimination et d'incitation à la haine sur base de la conviction religieuse ou philosophique. Les cours et tribunaux appliquent effectivement ces dispositions. Le Centre pour l'Égalité des chances suit l'islamophobie et a établi un rapport, dont il ressort que 13% des cas de discrimination sont basés sur la religion, dont 40% sur l'islamophobie.

91. Le Centre pour l'Égalité des chances et la lutte contre le racisme a 3 missions: la discrimination, la migration et la lutte contre la pauvreté. Le Centre exerce sa compétence par le suivi des signalements individuels, la sensibilisation et la formation, et par des avis et des recommandations.

92. L'accueil des demandeurs d'asile et d'autres catégories d'étrangers est organisé par la loi de 2007, qui assure que tous puissent mener une vie conforme à la dignité humaine. La loi prévoit notamment une aide matérielle durant toute la durée de la procédure d'asile ainsi que le droit à l'aide médicale, psychologique, sociale et l'assistance judiciaire. Une attention particulière est accordée aux groupes vulnérables, tels que les victimes de torture, les personnes âgées ou les mineurs non-accompagnés. Ces derniers bénéficient d'un régime d'accueil spécial.

93. Depuis le 1^{er} octobre 2008, des lieux d'hébergement sont mis à la disposition des familles comme alternative à la détention dans les centres fermés.

94. La détention d'un demandeur d'asile n'est pas systématique en Belgique. Aux frontières, seuls les étrangers qui ne satisfont pas aux conditions d'entrée sont maintenus.

95. Les principes des droits de l'homme font partie des formations spécifiques organisées pour les magistrats et les forces de l'ordre, y compris les policiers et les militaires. Les communautés ont également adopté des mesures visant à inclure l'éducation aux droits de l'homme dans le programme scolaire.

96. La traite des êtres humains jouit d'une définition large dans le Code pénal visant tous les actes de la traite, avec comme finalité l'exploitation sexuelle, la mendicité, le trafic d'organes ou la délinquance forcée. Le plan d'action national 2008 comprend, entre autres, divers aspects relatifs à la prévention et à la répression des trafiquants. La protection des enfants fait partie intégrale de la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains. La Belgique a conclu des accords de coopération policière visant notamment le trafic et la traite des êtres humains avec les États d'origine et/ ou ceux des auteurs de traite.

97. L'accès à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire est gratuit. Il n'y a pas de frais directs. Les Communautés ont pris des mesures pour réduire les coûts indirects (notamment pour les livres et le matériel) et donner des aides financières pour les élèves qui en ont besoin.

98. Malgré des contraintes budgétaires, l'APD belge a atteint le chiffre record de 0,64%, en 2010, notamment grâce à l'annulation de la dette de la RDC. La Belgique devrait atteindre 0,57% du PNB en 2011, vu la diminution des dettes à annuler.

99. En guise de conclusion, la Belgique a tenu à remercier toutes les délégations qui sont intervenues au cours du débat interactif. L'EPU constituera assurément un instrument précieux dans l'élaboration des politiques futures en matière de droits de l'homme. Le processus ne fait que débiter. La Belgique s'est engagée à présenter un rapport intermédiaire sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations acceptées en 2013, et à associer la société civile au suivi de l'EPU.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

100. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below have been examined by Belgium and enjoy the support of Belgium:

100.1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Norway, Spain, Brazil, Ecuador);

100.2. Consider ratification of the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Palestine);

100.3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain , Brazil); consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as recommended by the CRC (South Africa);

100.4. Consider withdrawing its reservations to various instruments to which it is party to (South Africa);

100.5. Ratify Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 (Democratic Republic of Congo);

100.6. Accede to the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons Enforced Disappearance as recommended by certain treaty bodies (Ecuador);

100.7. Condemn any manifestation of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia in political statements and pursue its efficient measures to combat these phenomena in official and media sectors and within the public at large (Algeria);

100.8. Promote freedom of all religions, including by passing the laws to give Buddhism the status of a recognised religion (Thailand);

100.9. Consider the establishment of a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (India); establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (United Kingdom, Poland, Egypt, Afghanistan, Portugal, Australia, Norway, Spain, Democratic Republic of Congo, Palestine, Ecuador, Djibouti, Russian Federation);in order to further strengthen and institutionalize the government's policies and strategies (Indonesia); continue considering the establishment of a National Human Rights commission in compliance with the Paris Principles (Chile); make effective the Paris Principles, notably those relating to the establishment of a national human rights commission (Burkina Faso); explore the possibility of consolidating the work of existing institutions and establishing a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);

100.10. Take into consideration the recommendations made by the Belgian Parliamentary Special Commission on “the treatment of sexual abuse and acts of paedophilia within a relation of authority, in particular in the Church” aiming at better ensure the rights of the juvenile victims of sexual offences and in particular to increase the limitation period applicable to crimes of rape of or sexual assaults on minors (France);

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- 100.11. Redouble effort to achieve the appropriate implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, in particular with regard to full exercise of right to education, and the protection of minors from sexual abuse and exploitation and, above all, to put and end to detention of foreign children in closed detention centres in accordance with the decision of Minister of Migration Policy and Asylum (Ecuador);
- 100.12. Continue its efforts to strengthen its international cooperation to prevent and punish acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism (Moldova);
- 100.13. Adopt and fully implement as soon as possible the national action plan against domestic violence (Austria);
- 100.14. Continue its efforts in the area of women's rights and finalise the national action plan to combat domestic violence (Canada);
- 100.15. Include homeless women and children, including unaccompanied children of foreign origin as priority beneficiaries into poverty reduction strategy (Kyrgyzstan);
- 100.16. Fully implement all laws, policies and programmes which have been adopted to strengthen gender equality and the rights of women (Moldova);
- 100.17. Strengthen relevant measures in order to improve further gender equality (Japan);
- 100.18. Accelerate efforts aimed at fully implementing the wide range of laws, policies and programs aimed at strengthening gender equality and women's rights (Malaysia);
- 100.19. Continue its efforts relating to human rights education and training, particularly for law enforcement agents (Morocco);
- 100.20. Increase human rights education and training for police officers (Austria);
- 100.21. Fully implement in time the provisions contained in the Master Plan regarding penal establishments (Austria);
- 100.22. Ensure full integration of persons with disabilities into socio-economic and political affairs, particularly equal access to job opportunities, promoting of their right to education, adequate resources for care and support for children with psychosocial disabilities in the family and in the community, and finally, to ensure their accessibility to public transportation and buildings (Thailand);
- 100.23. Continue and further step up efforts with regard to the promotion of human rights education (Slovenia);
- 100.24. Continue its close cooperation with civil society in the follow up to the UPR session (Austria);
- 100.25. Facilitate the active involvement of civil society stakeholders, including human rights non-governmental organizations, in follow up to the review (Portugal);
- 100.26. Clear the backlog in responses to thematic questionnaires of the Human Rights Council Special Procedures (Russian Federation);

- 100.27. Pursue its efforts relating to human rights education and training in order to make its internal mechanism to combat discrimination effective and more efficient (Burkina Faso);
- 100.28. Increase its efforts to eradicate any types of stereotypes against women (Uzbekistan);
- 100.29. Take necessary measures to enable women to exercise their rights without harassment, coercion, and discrimination (Palestine);
- 100.30. Take all appropriate action, including programmes of education and training, in order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Norway);
- 100.31. Strengthen its measures to prevent and combat xenophobia and racial prejudice among politicians, public officials and the general public, in line with the recommendation of the CERD (South Africa);
- 100.32. Increase the effectiveness in preventing any cases of xenophobia or racial discrimination that have been demonstrated by officials and increase its activities to combat these scourges (Uzbekistan);
- 100.33. Take effective measures to curb racial hatred and religious intolerance, by strengthening its measures to prevent and combat xenophobia and racial prejudice among politicians, public officials and the general public (Bangladesh);
- 100.34. Take further steps to prevent racially motivated violence through awareness-raising activities and improve the employment situation of immigrants, as well as to combat violence in general and strengthen the prosecution of those who still engage in it (Japan);
- 100.35. Improve overall conditions in prisons and adopt relevant measures to tackle the problems such as overcrowding (Czech Republic);
- 100.36. Improve conditions in Belgium's prisons, including in relation to overcrowding (Australia);
- 100.37. Remedy prison overcrowding and its repercussion on the right to health (Djibouti);
- 100.38. Continue promoting political and legislative developments in this regard regarding measures taken to reduce overcrowding in prisons and to implement the master plan]as this is a theme that affects countries in several regions in the world (Chile);
- 100.39. Allocate more resources from the national budget and take additional measures to improve the situation in prisons and so as to ensure that the deteriorated penitentiary situation is no longer be a problem in the country (Ecuador);
- 100.40. Adopt efficient measures to reduce prison overcrowding and enhance hosting conditions of penitentiary facilities and shelters (Algeria);
- 100.41. Enhance its efforts to reduce prison overcrowding (United States);
- 100.42. Take measures to reduce the amount of time that defendants spend in pre-trial detention (United States);
- 100.43. Take steps to improve the conditions in the closed centres for aliens (Sweden);

- 100.44. Finalise the implementation of the “Master Plan for More Humane Prison Facilities” and continue to take action to address the problem of overcrowding in prisons and its consequences in regards to the conditions of the prisoners (Sweden);
- 100.45. Give priority to measures that reduce the backlog of court cases and that provide for adequate staffing in law courts (Netherlands);
- 100.46. Adapt procedural law to the requirements established in the Salduz case, guaranteeing to detained persons access to a lawyer from the moment of the first interrogation (Spain);
- 100.47. Address the situation in its prisons and detention facilities particularly in relation to their exposure to frequent strikes of the prison guard personnel (Slovakia);
- 100.48. Bring ODA up to the internationally committed 0.7% of GDP to Developing countries and 0.2% to LDCs, specially, to support in the areas of poverty reduction, climate challenges and persons with disabilities (Bangladesh);
- 100.49. Fully respect the economic and social rights of migrant workers and their families and ensure their safety and security (Bangladesh);
- 100.50. Promote equal access to education, through inclusive policies in the education system aimed at children from poor, foreign and minority families (Mexico);
- 100.51. Strengthen the asylum procedures by, among others, improving legal assistance for asylum-seekers, expediting the procedures, and responding to specific needs of asylum-seekers who are children, women and the elderly (Thailand);
- 100.52. Find long-term solutions to avoid situations where asylum seekers, especially women and children, have to live in degrading conditions (Norway);
- 100.53. Ensure sufficient safe and secure housing for asylum seekers (United Kingdom);
- 100.54. Continue to give special attention to the rights of children and women asylum seekers, in particular by providing shelter, and ensuring their protection from violence (Indonesia);
- 100.55. Improve the living conditions in centres for asylum-seekers and revise existing system of dealing with individual complaints including the need to ensure that legal advice services are available in those centres (Czech Republic);
- 100.56. Consider making the asylum procedure more transparent including at the appeals stage (Nigeria);
- 100.57. Implement with strict observation to the principle of *non-refoulement*, the monitoring mechanism that is being developed to monitor forcible removals (Indonesia);
- 100.58. Continue to increase its capacities for integration of migrants (Slovakia);
- 100.59. Find a positive solution to the institutional crisis, that Belgium has been going through for several months, through a dialogue between the various communities of the Belgian society (Djibouti).

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101. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Belgium which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:

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- 101.1. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Spain, Brazil, Argentina); become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance at an early stage (Japan);
- 101.2. Complete at the earliest the ratification process of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and fully recognise the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, as provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention (France);
- 101.3. Introduce a provision permitting the dissolution of organisations inciting racial hatred in domestic law (France);
- 101.4. Not relax its efforts to eradicate practices such as incitement to hatred and violence from certain far-rights groups, wherever they appear, including on the internet, where they are especially prevalent (Indonesia);
- 101.5. Take action to eliminate sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Bangladesh);
- 101.6. Provide adequate support to sexually exploited or at-risk children (Iran);
- 101.7. Develop a strategy to eradicate the process of child trafficking, child prostitution, and child pornography in the process of the development of the national plan of actions on combating trafficking in human beings (Belarus);
- 101.8. Effectively address through legislation and policies the sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography (Egypt);
- 101.9. Allocate substantial resources and give special attention to children of the most vulnerable groups in the society (Afghanistan);
- 101.10. Adopt comprehensive legislation concerning domestic violence (Poland);
- 101.11. In consultation and cooperation with relevant partners, take appropriate measures to implement the National Plan of Action for Children (Hungary);
- 101.12. Approve and implement as soon as possible the National Action Plan 2010-2014 to combat domestic violence (Spain);
- 101.13. Seek the opinion of the concerned parties before the approval of the draft national action plan against domestic violence 2010–2014 (Hungary);
- 101.14. Implement the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee to discontinue public funding of political parties which propagate hate, discrimination and violence (Russian Federation);
- 101.15. Ensure effective coordination at the federal, regional and community levels for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Poland);

- 101.16. Tackle the issue, noted by the Human Rights Committee, that complaints against police officers did not always lead to the imposition of commensurate penalties (Turkey);
- 101.17. Pay particular attention to tackle the pay gap between men and women through reinforced policy measures (Nigeria);
- 101.18. Protect gender identity and expression under anti-discriminatory laws and policies (Norway);
- 101.19. Strengthen its measures to prevent and combat xenophobia and racial prejudices amongst politicians, public officials and the general public, as well as to promote tolerance between all ethnic and national groups (Pakistan);
- 101.20. Monitor the incidence of and combat racism and xenophobia (Brazil);
- 101.21. Take necessary measures to prevent inquiries, arbitrary detentions, searches and questioning by judicial and police authorities motivated by physical appearance, skin colour and racial or ethnic origins. Additionally, impose severe sanctions on authorities that commit such excesses and ill-treatment (Ecuador);
- 101.22. Stop detention of minors in adult prisons (Iran);
- 101.23. Take actions to ensure that no ill-treatment occurs during expulsions, inter alia by introducing an effective system for lodging complaints of such treatment (Sweden);
- 101.24. Ensure that legal advice services are available inside the asylum-seeker and irregular migrant closed detention centres (United Kingdom);
- 101.25. Eliminate the systematic detention at the border of asylum seekers and migrants in an irregular situation and limit to exceptional cases the deprivation of liberty of asylum seekers during the period of the determination of their request for asylum (Mexico);
- 101.26. Ensure that no arms are traded with regions that deploy child soldiers (Netherlands).
102. The following recommendations will be examined by Belgium which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 18th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2011:
- 102.1. Withdraw its reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czech Republic);
- 102.2. Withdraw its reservations and interpretative declarations on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Iran);
- 102.3. Harmonize national legislation with human rights treaties, and in particular withdraw reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ecuador);
- 102.4. Ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the leading instrument in this respect (Hungary);
- 102.5. Elaborate a National Action Plan for the promotion and protection of human rights that allows federal and non-federal institutions that work in this field to better coordinate policies and their implementation (Ecuador);

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102.6. Establish a national human rights institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles by elaborating an action plan for the protection and promotion of human rights (Djibouti);

102.7. Accelerate the process of withdrawal of declarations under article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning non discrimination principle, which limits the enjoyment of the Convention rights by children who do not have Belgian nationality (Kyrgyzstan);

102.8. Renew its action plan against the sexual exploitation of children for commercial purposes (Canada);

102.9. Adopt clear and comprehensive legislation regarding domestic violence, in full compliance with CEDAW recommendations (Brazil);

102.10. Develop a comprehensive and coordinated national strategy to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, as recommended in 2008 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Kyrgyzstan);

102.11. Ratify, pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Russian Federation);

102.12. Further step up the efforts to extend the action plan against domestic violence to cover all forms of violence against women (Norway);

102.13. Circulate and implement the Bangkok rules on the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders as part of its reform of the judicial system (Thailand).

103. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Belgium:

103.1. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Argentina; Iran; Egypt; Pakistan; Democratic Republic of Congo; Palestine);

103.2. Adhere to international human rights instruments, which it is not yet a party to, notably the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Burkina Faso);

103.3. Reconsider its position relating to the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families pursuing to the recommendation 1737 of 17 March 2006 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which Belgium is a member of (Algeria);

103.4. Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Nigeria 1); Accede to the International Convention on the Rights on the Protection of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families as an additional fundamental step for the protection of human rights (Guatemala , Ecuador);

103.5. Afford sufficient legal safeguards so that complaints by foreigners do not have negative consequences regarding their stay in the country, in order to implement penal provisions relative to acts of xenophobia and racial discrimination and to investigate and effectively sanction human rights violations committed against foreigners or persons belonging to minorities (Mexico);

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- 103.6. Increase the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent manifestation of racial hatred or intolerance, including in the statements of politicians, civil officials or the press and promptly introduce legal ban on the activities of any political parties and organizations that propagate hatred and racial discrimination (Belarus);
- 103.7. Establish a national mechanism to coordinate and implement policies and programmes to combat child exploitation (Canada);
- 103.8. Revise its penal code to ensure that its legislation on child pornography covers representation of a child by whatever means for primarily sexual purposes (Pakistan);
- 103.9. Specify child trafficking as a separate crime in criminal legislation as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Belarus);
- 103.10. Take necessary measures to ensure that corporal punishment is explicitly prohibited by law under all circumstances (Poland);
- 103.11. Provide human rights education and training about non-discrimination in particular to law enforcement officials and take effective measures to prevent and prohibit racial profiling by the police (Egypt);
- 103.12. Take specific steps to strengthen the institution of a family, including raising awareness among the youth of traditional understanding of a family and its social values (Belarus);
- 103.13. Consider lifting the ban on headscarves in schools (Malaysia);
- 103.14. Implement the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to declare illegal and prohibit organizations which promote and incite racial discrimination (Russian Federation);
- 103.15. Recognizing that, though national Belgium's legislation fully complies with requirements to guarantee the absence of racial discrimination, it is not truly effective as complaints of discrimination by non-citizens and persons of foreign origin continue to be numerous, encourage the adoption of necessary measures to combat racial discrimination establishing public policies that would fight outbreaks of intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia. Additionally, fully respect the human rights of foreigners independently of their migration status (Ecuador);
- 103.16. Undertake a comprehensive set of measures to tackle racial discrimination and combat more resolutely all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and religious intolerance against foreigners and religious minorities—such as Muslims (Iran);
- 103.17. Tackle discrimination against the Muslim community and insults against Islamic sanctities and allow all Muslims to practice Islam in accordance with their religious beliefs—without government interference or approval (Iran);
- 103.18. Establish a specific mechanism to monitor Islamophobia and adopt effective measures to combat this evil phenomenon among political parties and extreme right-wing organizations (Iran);
- 103.19. Take additional steps, including legislative steps, to eradicate discrimination against migrant workers, members of their families as well as representatives of religious and national minorities (Belarus);

- 103.20. End the excessive use of force by the police in maintaining order during the mass demonstrations as well as against foreigners subject to deportation from the country. (Belarus);
 - 103.21. Discontinue authorization for the excessive use of force by the law enforcement—especially indiscriminate use of Tasers (Iran);
 - 103.22. Terminate the practice of holding persons suffering from mental illness in prisons and prison psychiatric wards (Iran);
 - 103.23. End detention of asylum-seekers at borders and create alternatives to detention for asylum-seeking families (Iran).
104. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

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Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Belgium was headed by H.E. VANACKERE Steven, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- M. ROUX François, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève;
- M. BRAUWERS Hugo, Ministre Conseiller, Représentant permanent adjoint de la Belgique auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève;
- M. OUVRY Bart, Porte Parole, SPF Affaires Etrangères;
- M. TILEMANS Michel, Directeur Droits de l'homme, SPF Affaires Etrangères;
- Mme VANKEIRSBILCK Petra, Directeur communication et relations externes, SPF Affaires Etrangères;
- M. VERLAECKT Koen, Secrétaire Général du Service Flandre Internationale, Communauté flamande;
- Mme WEERTS Laurence, Directeur de Cabinet adjointe, Cabinet de la Vice-Première Ministre, Ministre de l'emploi et de l'Egalité des chances, chargée de la Politique de migration et d'asile
- M. LAMMENS Bart, Chef de Cabinet Adjoint, Cabinet du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères;
- Mme BERRENDORF Marie-Françoise, Conseiller général à l'Appui stratégique, Direction générale des Etablissements pénitentiaires, Service Public Fédéral de la Justice;
- M. VANDAMME François, Conseiller général, Travail et Concertation sociale- Division des Affaires internationales, Service Public Fédéral Emploi;
- Mme ADRIAENSSENS Alexandra, Directrice à la Direction de l'Egalité des Chances du Ministère de la Communauté française;
- Mme BYNENS Julie, Conseiller, Délégué du Gouvernement flamand auprès des organisations multilatérales à Genève;
- M. CLAIRBOIS Marc, Conseiller, Délégué de la Communauté française de la Belgique et de la Région wallonne à Genève;
- Mme GOOSSENS Kristine, Conseiller, Cellule stratégique du Secrétaire d'Etat au Budget, à la Politique de Migration et d'Asile et à la Politique des Familles;
- Mme HEYNDRICKX Isabelle, Conseiller Droits de l'homme, Cabinet du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères;
- Mme FASTRE Frédérique, Conseiller, Institut pour l'égalité des femmes et des hommes;
- Mme ROCHEZ Sandrine, Conseiller Juridique, Police fédérale – Direction de la coopération Policière internationale;
- M. ROGISTER Yves, Conseiller auprès du Ministre-Président de la Communauté française et de la Région wallonne;

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- Mme STAESSENS Nele, Conseiller, Cellule stratégique du Ministre de la justice;
 - M. TIMMERMANS Jens, Conseiller, Cellule stratégique du Ministre de la justice;
 - M. VIDAL Maarten, Conseiller, Service Flandre Internationale-Division de la Politique, Communauté flamande;
 - M. WERY Philippe, Conseiller, Direction générale de la Législation et des Libertés et Droits Fondamentaux-Chef du Service des Droits de l'Homme, Service Public Fédéral de la Justice;
 - M. MINSIER Yannick, Secrétaire d'Ambassade, Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève;
 - M. BAERT Xavier, Secrétaire d'Ambassade, Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève;
 - Mme GRISARD Stéphanie, Attaché, Direction générale de la Législation et des Libertés et Droits Fondamentaux-Service des Droits de l'Homme, Service Public Fédéral de la Justice;
 - Mme JOOSTEN Véronique, Attaché, Droits de l'Homme, SPF Affaires Etrangères;
 - Mme PROUMEN Valérie, Attaché, Service Lutte contre la pauvreté et économie sociale, SPP Intégration sociale;
 - Mme VAN LUL Colette, Attaché, Direction générale de l'Office des étrangers, Service Public Fédéral Intérieur;
-