



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**On the occasion of the Universal Periodic Review of Belarus
22nd Session**

Statement by:

**Benedict Lawrence Lukwiya
Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

Geneva, 04 May 2015

Please Check against delivery

Mr. President,

The delegation of Uganda welcomes the decision by the Government of Belarus to participate in the second cycle of the UPR review process and we thank the delegation of Belarus for the comprehensive introduction to their report.

We note, in particular, the participatory manner in which the report was prepared by involving not only Government Bodies but also including other key stakeholders such as the Civil Society, the business community and other local and international organisations.

My delegation also considers it important for this Working Group to recognise the considerable steps that the Government of Belarus has taken since the first review to adopt a number of conventions including the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings; the Convention on Standards for Democratic Elections; the Electoral Rights and Freedom in the States Member of Commonwealth of Independent States and Minamata Convention on Mercury to mention but a few.

Among the positive efforts made, Belarus has also reviewed and made various amendments to its laws such as on the Code of Civil procedure; the Code of Administrative Offenses; the Marriage and Family Code and Labour Code.

Mr. President,

While these are encouraging developments, Uganda recommends that Belarus moves forward to make necessary arrangements for the adoption of a comprehensive national policy on children with disabilities.

I thank you.