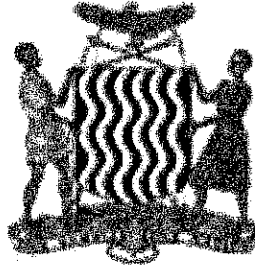


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ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF BELGIUM – 20th JANUARY, 2016

Thank you Mr. President,

Zambia welcomes the delegation of Belgium to the second UPR Cycle and commends them for the comprehensive report highlighting the positive strides which demonstrates Belgium's continued cooperation and commitment with and to the Human Rights Council and the UPR process.

We commend Belgium for making genuine effort in implementing some of the recommendations accepted during the 1st Universal Periodic Review Process in 2011. However, my delegation is deeply concerned about the reports of racially motivated violence and ill-treatment by police officers targeted at persons with an immigrant background. In this regard, Zambia

calls upon the Government of Belgium to put measures in place aimed at combating these vices by the police officers.

While noting that Belgium has signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in October, 2005, it is appalling that, since then there has not been any progress made regarding measures taken towards the ratification of the Protocol. We thus wish to recommend Belgium to ratify the Optional Protocol.

Lastly, Zambia wishes Belgium success in her quest to fully comply with their obligations in the field of Human Rights.

I thank you