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**Bangladesh statement on the UPR of Belgium**

Thank you Mr. President.

To begin, a warm welcome to the delegation of Belgium.

Bangladesh appreciates various actions adopted by the Belgian government to curb racial discrimination and to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and migrant workers.

We have noted the joint circular on the policy of identifying and prosecuting discrimination and hate-related violence. We have also noted the Flemish citizenship and integration policy aiming at participation of people of foreign origin in the social life and enhancing respect among persons of different origins.

Nonetheless, despite these achievements, there still remain challenges in Belgium. We have noted that several treaty bodies including CERD and CEDAW have expressed concerns regarding decisions related to wearing of symbols of belief in schools and then to ban on headscarves that affected women and girls’ education and employment. CERD was also concerned at the number of acts of Islamophobia.

In view of the above, we recommend that the government of Belgium:

1. Fully ensures safety and security of migrant workers and their families; and
2. further focuses on preventing religious intolerance, by strengthening measures to prevent and combat Islamophobia while implementing the circular on Flemish citizenship and integration policy.

Thank you.