

Human Rights Council  
UPR 24<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UPR working group,  
Review of Belgium  
Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the delegation of Belgium and thanks it for its presentation.

Denmark welcomes that Belgium during its first UPR accepted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture/(OP-CAT). We are also pleased to learn, from the national report, that Belgium is doing everything possible to ratify OP-CAT as rapidly as possible. We would be grateful, if you could elaborate on the concrete steps being taken, and we recommend that the Government of Belgium intensifies efforts to ratify the OP-CAT.

Denmark was pleased to note that Belgium during its first UPR accepted recommendations to establish a national human rights institution (NHRI) in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Although Denmark recognizes that Belgium already has several bodies that partially carry out the functions of a NHRI, we believe that the establishment of an A-status Institute would improve the ability to effectively monitor the protection of human rights in Belgium.

Denmark therefore recommends Belgium to expedite the establishment of a NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.