**UN Human Rights Council**

**UPR 24th Session**

**Statement made by the United Arab Emirates in the Interactive Dialogue**

**with Belgium**

*Delivered by H.E. Obaid Salem AL ZAABI,*

*Ambassador/Permanent Representative of UAE*

*Geneva, 20 January 2016*

**UPR24 – Review of Belgium**

**Intervention by the United Arab Emirates**

Mr. President,

We would like to express our appreciation to the delegation of Belgium for its presentation. We recognize Belgium’s commitment to human rights and its many achievements. In particular, we praise measures taken to promote the rights of the child, women’s equality, and the rights of persons with disabilities.

We are concerned at reports of religious discrimination, racial violence and Islamophobia.

The UAE recommends that Belgium:

1. Implement public awareness campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and to counter prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, racism, and Islamophobia; and
2. Eliminate religious discrimination, including prohibitions on wearing religious symbols or clothing.

Thank you Mr. President.