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Statement by the Delegation of Kazakhstan
at the 24th Session of the UPR WG / UPR of Belgium

20 January, 2016

Kazakhstan would like to welcome the ^{MR. Didier Reynders} ~~delegation of the Kingdom of Belgium to this UPR WG session~~ and thank H.E. and the delegation accompanying him for the comprehensive presentation of the National Report.

First of all, we would like to commend Belgium for the ratification, since its first UPR review, of the following international human rights instruments: the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. We also appreciate the efforts undertaken by Belgium in the area of justice administration, improvement of detention facilities and combating contemporary forms of slavery.

At the same time, we have noted that Belgium has still not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture which it has signed in 2005. We are aware of the complexities of the ratification process in Belgium, but we nevertheless would like to recommend Belgium to ratify the OPCAT as rapidly as possible and establish a National Preventive Mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol.

In addition to this, we wish to offer Belgium the following recommendations:

- 1) Establish a National Human Rights Institution which is fully compliant with Paris Principles, as Belgium committed to in the previous review.
- 2) Adopt as soon as possible and effectively implement the National Action Plan 2015-2019 against gender-based violence.

Thank you!