



**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**  
**Review of Belgium**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council**  
**18-29 January 2016**

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Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Belgium to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the presentation of the report.

2. Malaysia notes that Belgium has made progress in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We also note the amendments to the relevant legal instruments in Belgium that enable action to be taken against acts of discrimination and hate-related violence. We further note the improvements in advancing the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities.

3. We propose the following **five recommendations** for the consideration of Belgium:

- 3.1. **One:** Enhance gender mainstreaming activities with a focus to increase women's participation in decision-making and addressing the gender pay gap;
- 3.2. **Two:** Rescind the decision to prohibit the peaceful expression of religious beliefs, including the wearing of religious symbols in all schools, in line with the freedom of religion or belief guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and the European Union's Guideline on Freedom of Religion or Belief 2013;
- 3.3. **Three:** Step up measures to curb acts of racism, extremism and xenophobia and undertake efforts to improve interracial, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and sensitivity;
- 3.4. **Four:** Enforce legislation that prohibits discrimination, particularly based on gender race and belief, to improve the economic opportunities and conditions of work for women and minority groups; and
- 3.5. **Five:** Enhance human rights training, including on interracial, intercultural and interreligious sensitivity, for the police.

I thank you.

**GENEVA**  
**20 January 2016**