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24th Session of the Working Group for UPR
Interactive Dialogue on Report of **Belgium**

Mr. President,

The Republic of Serbia welcomes the delegation of Belgium and thanks them for presentation of their report.

We commend the successful follow-up of recommendations from the previous cycle, in particular the significant improvements in the national normative framework. We encourage Belgium to finalize the procedure for ratification of the remaining human rights instruments, such as OP-CAT and the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe. We also welcome the steps taken for the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Belgium should be commended for its strategy of gender mainstreaming to all levels of government, as well as for combating sexism, stereotypes and harassment based on gender expression. We encourage Belgium to continue wide range communication campaigns on all levels of government for awareness-raising on gender equality issues, with special attention to gender based violence. In the light of the above, we recommend Belgium to continue its focus on domestic and gender based violence and to ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan in this regard.

Concerning the issue of trafficking in human beings, we recommend to Belgium to explore additional legislative and policy measures to prevent trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

We wish Belgium a successful review.