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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC  
REVIEW**

**REVIEW OF BELGIUM**

**20 JANUARY 2016**

**PALAIS DES NATIONS**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Belgium to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the comprehensive presentation of its national report.

We have noted with appreciation that Belgium has made efforts towards the implementation of recommendations accepted during its first cycle review, in particular the adoption Act of 14 January 2013, which increased the penalties for certain offences in the case of aggravated circumstances based on discriminatory motives, including racial motives as well as the National Roma Integration.

In order to give further impetus to progress registered, South Africa would like to recommend that Belgium should:

1. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles;
2. Adopt a national action plan on gender mainstreaming;
3. Adopt a national action plan against racism
4. Protect small-scale farming in the country and implement plans designed to preserve it

Finally, Mr. President, my delegation wishes Belgium success in their second review.

I thank you.