

Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève

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| **WG UPR 25 – Tanzania**  ***Belgian Intervention***  9 May 2016 |

**Mr. Chair,**

Belgium welcomes the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania, and wishes it every success in the exercise of this second Universal Periodic Review.

We would like to acknowledge the progress made by Tanzania regarding the recommendations accepted during its first UPR in 2011, in particular with respect to the rights of the child, of which a significant number has been partially implemented since then.

However, on certain issues such as child labor, death penalty and freedom of the press, there is still room for progress. In this context, Belgium wishes to formulate the following recommendations:

Belgium welcomes the de-facto moratorium on **death penalty** since 1995 and would like to encourage the Government to take the next step. Therefore, we recommend to **R1** ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Regarding the issue of **child labor**, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that the national action plan is not effectively implemented. We therefore recommend to **R2** fully implement the ‘National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor’ from 2009.

Furthermore, Belgium welcomes the **prohibition of all employment of children under 14 years, as well as of the employment of children under 18 years in mines, factories and plantations**. However, we share the concerns expressed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the persistent exposure to hazardous labor, especially in agriculture, artisanal mines and stone quarries, and to exploitation in domestic work. Therefore, we recommend to **R3** take all measures in order to ensure the enforcement of the existing labor laws and regulations prohibiting all employment of children under 14 years as well as the employment of children under 18 years in mines, factories and plantations.

Finally, Belgium is worried by the reports regarding cases of suspension of newspapers and radio stations. We recommend **R4** amending all laws infringing on **press freedom**, in particular the Statistics Act and the Cyber Crimes Act of 2015.

**Thank you, Mr. Chair.**

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