

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

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| **WG UPR 26 – Zimbabwe**  ***Intervention of Belgium***  2nd of November 2016 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Zimbabwe and wishes it every success in the exercise of its second Universal Periodic Review. We wish to congratulate Zimbabwe with the adoption of a new Constitution founded on principles that include the rule of law and fundamental human rights.

Belgium remains concerned about the persistence of harmful laws and practices against women and children in the area of marriage and family relations. We therefore recommend:

**R1.** To amend all statutory and customary law to establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 years and take concrete steps to implement this legislation, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**R2**. To amend all discriminatory provisions and administrative regulations relating to family, marriage and divorce.

Belgium regrets that, contrary to the recommendations accepted by Zimbabwe during its first UPR to abolish death penalty, the new constitution allows the adoption of laws which impose the death penalty. Therefore, we recommend:

**R3.** To abolish death penalty in national legislation for all crimes.

I thank you, Mr. President.