

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

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| **WG UPR – South Africa*****Belgian intervention***10th of May 2017 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of South Africa and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third Universal Periodic Review.

My country has noted with satisfaction that the South African authorities have taken several steps to implement the recommendations made during the previous UPR cycle. Nevertheless, there are still several important concerns to be noted.

In this regard, Belgium wishes to formulate the following recommendations to South Africa:

**R1.** To strengthen the protection of LGBTI persons against stigmatization, harassment and discrimination by promoting tolerance for sexual diversity and different gender identities and by clearly classifying acts of violence against these persons as hate crimes.

**R2.** To revise the ‘Children’s Act’ in order to set the minimum age for marriage to 18 years for both boys and girls.

**R3.** To ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the status of stateless persons and the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness.

I thank you, Mr. President