**UPR 38**

**Review of Belgium**

**Wednesday, 5 May 2021**

**Statement by Romania**

Thank you, Madame President,

Romania warmly welcomes the delegation of Belgium to the UPR, and would like to thank for its report.

We take note of the important measures taken by Belgium since its last UPR, such as the ratification of Istanbul Convention, the creation of a national human rights institution complying with the Paris Principles, the efforts to create the required framework allowing for the ratification of the OPCAT, as well as the many policies adopted to fight racism, discrimination, inequalities and promote diversity.

Belgium's resolute approach to the UPR process is further demonstrated by the presentation of a voluntary interim report, in December 2019, as well as the special attention it has given to the promotion and protection of human rights both at federal level and at the level of the federated entities.

Romania would like to recommend to Belgium the following:

* To continue efforts aimed at reducing the gender pay gap;
* To finalize the ratification of the OPCAT.

We wish the Belgian delegation a very successful UPR.