**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF BELGIUM AT THE 38TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 5 MAY 2021**

Mdm President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation and commends Belgium’s progress since its last review. As an active delegation at the HRC and in the UPR process, we hope that Belgium will act sensitively and consider the specific national circumstances and contexts of its partners.

We recognise the steps undertaken to combat racism and discrimination in Belgium, but the work to eliminate racial discrimination must not slow down during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Singapore recommends that Belgium: (i) fully and expeditiously implements its national plan against racism, (ii) reports transparently on the progress towards the plan’s strategic objectives; and (iii) finalises without delay its inter-federal plan to combat racism.**

We note that incidences of domestic violence are under-reported, even while much work has been done to raise public awareness on violence against women and children. **Singapore recommends that Belgium strengthens its efforts to combat domestic violence and works with civil society to build an environment that enables greater reporting of such incidents to the authorities.**

Thank you, Mdm President.

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