**Human Rights Council**

**38th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Belgium**

*(5 May 2021)*

**Intervention by Ukraine**

 **Madam President,**

 Ukraine warmly welcomes the delegation of Belgium and thanks it for its presentation today.

 Ukraine is pleased to note the Government’s strong commitment to human rights protection and promotion and commends its efforts taken to improve the national institutional and legislative framework for human rights. This relates to the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and seven ILO conventions, the adoption of specific action plans and programmes to ensure the rights of vulnerable persons, including women and children, as well as to combat all forms of discrimination and trafficking in persons.

 It is also worth mentioning the adoption of the Law establishing the Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights to address issues related to counter-terrorism, freedom of expression, economic and social rights.

 Ukraine recommends:

 - to finalize the process of ratification of the OPCAT and set up the effective national preventive mechanism;

 - to establish the national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.

 We wish the delegation of Belgium a successful outcome of the review.

 **I thank you.**