**Statement of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**The 38th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

**Belgium**

**Geneva, 5th May 2021**

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the delegation of Belgium and wishes it a successful Review.

We acknowledge Belgium’s efforts to ensure the implementation of international human rights instruments. Nevertheless, my delegation is concerned about the persistence of discriminatory acts against persons belonging to minorities.

In this context, we offer the following recommendations:

1. Prevent ethnic profiling for identity checks by the police and provide responses to discriminatory practices;
2. Ensure equitable access to housing and other social benefits;

My delegation also takes note of Belgium’s efforts to reduce the gender pay gap. However, we recommend increasing women’s representation at all levels and in decision-making positions.

Thank you, Madam President