

**Statement by Malaysia**

**Review of Belgium**

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

**3 - 14 May 2021**

Malaysia thanks Belgium for the presentation of its national report.

1. Malaysia welcomes Belgium’s commitment to the UPR. We note various efforts taken to implement recommendations accepted by Belgium since its second UPR including through legislative and policies reforms.
2. In this spirit of constructive engagement, Malaysia recommends the following:
	1. expedite the development of an interfederal plan to combat racism and ensure its effective implementation in close consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders;
	2. take effective measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity and religion;
	3. guarantee freedom of religion or belief by allowing peaceful expression of religious beliefs, including the wearing of religious symbols;
	4. ensure adequate training of authorities involved in the fight against gender-based violence and stricter punishment for perpetrators; and
	5. actively and regularly cooperate with civil society for following-up the recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and for drafting the national reports.
3. We wish Belgium a successful review.

Thank you.

**GENEVA
5 May 2021**