**UGANDA DELEGATION STATEMENT AT THE REVIEW OF BELGIUM, GENEVA, MAY 2021**

**Thank you, President,**

Uganda welcomes the delegation of Belgium and commends them for their development cooperation policy which supports the protection of the rights of people living and working in rural settings.

We note the government’s initiatives to protect the rights of women and girls including recent legislative measures and encourage the government to continue these efforts to eliminate the gender pay gap and other forms of inequalities.

We welcome the government’s ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (2016) and seven ILO conventions.

Uganda makes the following recommendations:

1. Enhance efforts to eliminate hate crimes and discrimination based on religion.
2. Take the necessary measures to ensure that the rights of unaccompanied minors and separated children seeking asylum are protected in accordance with the best interests of the child.

We wish Belgium a successful review.

I thank you.