**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**38th SESSION**

**REVIEW OF BELGIUM**

**INTERVENTION BY TURKEY**

**(5 May 2021)**

Madame President,

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Belgium.

Turkey follows the developments in Belgium regarding human rights situation.

We appreciate the efforts undertaken by Belgium since the last country review, through which some of our recommendations were also fulfilled.

Yet, some issues still need to be addressed both in practice and in legislation, such as the need for the development of a national strategy against racial discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Similarly, considering the news and reports in the media, it is noted that excessive use of force and abuse of authority by police continue to be a serious concern.

Having said that, **we recommend** the Government of Belgium to,

1) Take necessary steps for the development of a national strategy against racial discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia with a view to facilitating protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees.

2) Raise awareness particularly against racial profiling by law enforcement bodies and maintain police training in order to address the issues of excessive use of force.

Finally, we wish Belgium all success during its 3rd UPR.

I thank you.