



Check against delivery

UPR of Belgium

*24<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group  
20 January 2016, Geneva*

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan welcomes the delegation of Belgium and thanks for the presentation of the national report. We welcome the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments by Belgium since its first UPR.

However, we are concerned over the existence of human rights problems as referred to in relevant reports of the UN treaty bodies, special procedures and other stakeholders.

We took note the concerns expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) regarding the number of acts of Islamophobia, as well as racially motivated violence and ill-treatment by police officers of persons with an immigrant background in the country. We also took note the concerns of the Committee against Torture (CAT) on the excessive and unjustified use of force by law enforcement officials during questioning or arrest.

In the light of the above-mentioned, we make the following recommendations:

1. To ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture;
2. To establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles;
3. To effectively combat all manifestations of Islamophobia and to promote tolerance, intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity in the society;
4. To investigate all allegations of excessive use of force, racially motivated violence and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials and to bring those responsible into justice;
5. To take effective steps to improve prison conditions and to reduce overcrowding.

Thank you, Mr. President.