

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR 26 - Lithuania**  ***Belgian Intervention***  2nd of November 2016 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Lithuania and wishes it every success in the exercise of this second Universal Periodic Review. We welcome the steps taken by Lithuania regarding recommendations accepted during its first UPR.

However, regarding certain issues there is still room for improvement. In particular, we remain concerned with the high prevalence of domestic violence against women and increasing negative attitudes against LGBTI.

In this regard, we would like to make the following two recommendations:

**R1.** To criminalize domestic violence and marital rape and to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

**R2.** To reject the adoption of legislative proposals that would restrict the enjoyment of fundamental rights by LGBTI persons.

In addition, we would like to recommend:

**R3.** To ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

I thank you, Mr. President