

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

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| **WG UPR 27 – India**  ***Intervention of Belgium***  4th of May 2017 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of India and wishes to welcomes India’s efforts in addressing violence and discrimination against women, like the adoption of various law reforms following the recommendations of the Verma Committee. However, Belgium is convinced that further progress can still be achieved to prevent and address violence against women.

Therefore, we would like to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** To remove the exception related to marital rape from the definition of rape in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code.

**R2.** To provide systematic training on women’s rights to all law enforcement personnel, medical staff and judicial officials.

As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium regrets that India still resorts to the use of this inhuman penalty and therefore recommends:

**R3.** To establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty.

I thank you, Mr. President