

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

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| **WG UPR 44  – Azerbaijan** ***Belgian intervention*** 14 November 2023 |

President,

Belgium remains gravely concerned about the rights and security of the Karabakh Armenians.

Belgium welcomes the progress made by Azerbaijan with regard to gender-based violence, as illustrated by the adoption of a National Action Plan on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. We encourage the Azeri government to continue these efforts and recommend to:

**R1.** Provide access to effective remedies, means of protection and assistance, including accommodation or shelters and other support services, to survivors of domestic violence in all parts of the country.

In other human rights areas however, Belgium remains concerned, particularly regarding civil and political rights. We therefore recommend the Azeri government to:

**R2.** Take concrete measures to align the national legal framework regarding the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly with its international obligations, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**R3.** Proceed with the immediate and correct implementation of the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, legally binding on all Council of Europe member states.

Thank you.