

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

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| **WG UPR – Bangladesh**  ***Belgian intervention***  November 2023 |

President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh and congratulates the government with its progress in education and health and tackling women’s and children’s mortality. Nevertheless, Belgium believes more can be achieved in the field of human rights and recommends the government of Bangladesh to:

**R1.** Repeal or amend the laws restricting freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, including the Digital Security Act, the Foreign Donations Regulation Act and the draft Cyber security act, so that they are fully in line with the ICCPR.

**R2**. Operationalize the Child Marriage Restraint Committees to prevent and protect children from child marriage, including by establishing of a monitoring mechanism.

As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium recommends Bangladesh at least to:

**R3.**  Restrict the use of the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” under international law.

Thank you, President.