

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

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| **WG UPR 45 – Mauritius** ***Belgian intervention****24 January 2024* |

President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Mauritius and wishes it a constructive UPR.

Although much progress has been made on human rights in Mauritius since the previous cycle, we regret the lack of follow-up to our previous recommendations. Therefore, Belgium would like to reiterate those and encourage the Mauritian government to take further steps towards positive change.

Belgium recommends to:

**R1.** Repeal section 250 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes relations between consenting same-sex adults, and is deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

**R2.** Amend Article 4 §1 of the Constitution to prevent any reintroduction of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**R3.** Put an end to intimidation, harassment and unjustified arrests of journalists, including censorship of social media accounts.

Thank you.