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

**WG UPR 46 – Dominican Republic**

***Intervention of Belgium***

7 May 2024

President,

Belgium welcomes the adoption of Law No. 1-21 prohibiting marriage under the age of 18 for girls and boys, but remains worried about the high number of forced marriages. It therefore recommends to:

**R1.** Take effective measures to protect girls and adolescents from early marriage, sexual exploitation and teenage pregnancy.

Belgium further also recommends to:

**R2.** Conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into femicide, ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice and guaranteeing reparation for victims and their families.

**R3.** Investigate all allegations of the use of excessive force by law enforcements officials, and ensure that they receive training on the appropriate use thereof.

Thank you.