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

**WG UPR 46 – Yemen**

***Intervention of Belgium***

April 2024

President,

Belgium welcomes some progress on human right issues in the Republic of Yemen, such as a renewed commitment to tackle child recruitment by government forces.

However, we remain concerned about the ongoing conflict in Yemen and the many violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and human rights by all parties. We are worried about continuing attacks against education, restrictions of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the prosecution of human rights defenders, and discrimination against women. Therefore Belgium recommends to:

**R1.** Ensure the protection of educational facilities as civilian objects, prioritize the rebuilding of schools and ensure that schools are not used for military purposes, mobilization or recruitment.

**R2.** End the harassment and prosecution of activists and journalists and respect their right to freedom of expression, end the practice of summoning activists and journalists to security and military agencies for questioning and end the abuse of laws on criminal defamation and national security to suppress dissent.

**R3.** Amend the Personal Status Law to ensure it is aligned with international human rights law and standards and does not contain any discriminatory provisions against women, including by repealing provisions on “immoral” behaviour.

Thank you.