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

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| **WG UPR – Costa Rica**  ***Intervention from Belgium***  11 November 2024 |

President,

Belgium welcomes the efforts and positive steps made by Costa Rica since its previous UPR. We particularly congratulate Costa Rica on the efforts taken in developing a protocol for investigating human rights violations against human rights defenders.

However, we are convinced that further progress still can be achieved. Therefore, Belgium recommends to:

**R1.** Ensure prompt and independent investigations into all reports of human rights violations against human rights defenders, including the killing of environmental and indigenous human rights defenders.

Belgium further recommends to:

**R2.** Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 years to 14 years and ensure the full application of juvenile justice standards

**R3.** Reform the Criminal Code to decriminalize abortion in case of fetal malformations incompatible with extra uterine life and in case of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

Thank you.