

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

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| **WG UPR – Sri Lanka** ***Belgian intervention***15th November 2017 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third Universal Periodic Review.

Belgium has noted with satisfaction that the Sri Lankan authorities have taken several steps to implement the recommendations made during the previous UPR cycle. Belgium particularly welcomes the establishment of an Office of Missing Persons. However, a number of accepted recommendations have not been fully implemented yet. My delegation is also concerned about certain recent developments, in particular in the fight against impunity and in enforcing freedom of religion and belief and women’s rights.

Therefore, Belgium would like to formulate the following recommendations :

**R1**. To establish an encompassing framework of judicial and non-judicial measures to ensure transitional justice, including the creation of a national mechanism of truth, justice and reconciliation and an office for reparations.

**R2**. To increase efforts to guarantee and protect freedom of religion and belief in line with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights .

**R3**. To strengthen measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women, amongst others by criminalizing marital rape.