

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

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| **WG UPR 37 – Oman**  ***Belgian Intervention***  21 January 2021 |

Mr./Madam President,

Belgium acknowledges the positive steps taken by the government of the Sultanate of Oman to implement recommendations accepted during its second UPR. Nevertheless, we are convinced more progress can be achieved, in particular regarding women’s rights. Therefore, Belgium recommends Oman to:

**R1**. Bring national legislation in line with international standards on freedom of opinion and expression, including the new penal code, the law on the press and publications, the law on cyber-crimes and the law on telecommunications;

**R2**. Remove all discriminatory provisions against women in legislation relating to marriage and divorce, child custody and inheritance rights;

**R3**. Ensure that reports of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, are duly investigated and prosecuted, perpetrators are adequately punished and victims have access to appropriate redress, including compensation.

Thank you, Mr./Madam President,.