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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 – Tajikistan**  ***Belgian intervention***  4th of November 2021 |

Mr./Madam President,

Belgium thanks the delegation of Tajikistan for its presentation and welcomes the Presidential Decree that established a working group to draft a new penal code. We remain however concerned about the human rights situation in Tajikistan.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Tajikistan to:

**R1.** Cease reprisals, violence and pressure on political opposition, civil society activists, Human rights NGOs, journalists and members of their families.

**R2.** Criminalize all forms of gender-based violence including, domestic violence, marital rape and sexual assault within and outside marriage by introducing a specific provision in the Penal Code.

As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium recommends the government of Tajikistan to:

**R3.** Speed up the ratification process of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Finally, while welcoming the recent amnesty law proposed by the President to mark the 30th anniversary of the country’s independence, we would like to inquire about the scope and the implementation of this law.

Thank you, Mr./Madam President.