

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

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| **WG UPR – Venezuela** ***Belgian intervention***25 January 2022 |

Mr. President,

As highlighted in the reports of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission, the human rights situation in Venezuela remains deeply concerning. In the context of the dramatic economic, social and political crisis, we see an erosion of the rule of law and continuing impunity for human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and systematic torture.

Therefore, Belgium recommends Venezuela to:

**R1.** Take effective measures to restore the independence of the judiciary and ensure the impartiality of the Office of the Attorney General and the Ombudsperson

**R2.** Immediately and impartially investigate all instances of extrajudicial killing and excessive use of force by security forces, including in the context of protests.

**R3.** Refrain from attacks and arbitrary arrests of people, especially journalists, exercising their right to freedom of expression, and end impunity in the case of violations of this right.

Thank you, Mr. President.