

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

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| **WG UPR 40 – Zimbabwe*****Belgian Intervention***26 January 2022 |

Mr. President,

While noting the steps taken by the Government of Zimbabwe since the previous review, Belgium finds that there is room for further progress, and therefore recommends the government to:

**R1.** Ensure that the Zimbabwean courts are impartial, allowing those appearing before them to have their constitutional rights to a fair trial and legal counsel of their choosing respected

**R2.** Amend all ancillary laws that may have a direct relationship with the provisions prohibiting child marriage, in order to ensure consistency and harmony in the legal framework

And finally, with a view to ensure a conducive and safe environment for everyone exercising or seeking to exercise their fundamental freedoms:

**R3. A**mend the Freedom of Information Act as well as the Maintenance of Peace and Order Act to remove any provisions that unduly restrict freedoms.

Thank you, Mr. President.