

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

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| **WG UPR 41 – Bahrein*****Intervention of Belgium***7th November 2022 |

Mr. President,

Belgium acknowledges that positive steps were taken by Bahrein since the previous UPR regarding children’s rights, for instance in the criminal justice system, and the fight against certain forms of discrimination against women in the labour market.

However, my delegation remains concerned about certain ongoing developments. As a firm opponent of the death penalty, Belgium is very worried about the resumption of executions after a de facto moratorium was in place since 2010 and the practice of revoking citizenship, especially where this renders individuals stateless.

Therefore, Belgium wishes to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women in the legislation, including on the freedom of movement, on the right to transmit nationality, to divorce and to inherit, in order to ensure gender equality.

**R2.** Ensure that the death penalty is not under any circumstances imposed in violation of the guarantees provided for in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**R3.** Amend the provisions in Decree Law No. 47 that criminalize defamation, blasphemy and criticizing public officials and promulgate a new media law that fully enshrines the right to freedom of expression.

Thank you, Mr. President