

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

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| **WG UPR 41 – Poland**  ***Belgian intervention***  15th of November 2022 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the efforts and positive steps made by Poland since its previous UPR, for instance on advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. Notwithstanding these efforts, there is still room for progress, in particular regarding women’s rights, sexual and reproductive health & rights and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Poland to:

**R1.** Ratify and fully implement the Istanbul Convention and amend the current legal definition of rape in the Criminal Code to non-consensual intercourse;

**R2.** Guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary, refrain from any legal and policy changes that could lead to political control or interference of the judiciary and fully implement the decisions of the international tribunals in this regard;

**R3.** Ensure legal, timely and effective access to both safe abortion and contraception.

Thank you, Mr. President