

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

|  |
| --- |
| **WG UPR – South Africa*****Belgian intervention***16th November 2022 |

Mr. President,

Belgium would like to acknowledge the positive role played by South Africa in promoting human rights at the international level, including in the fight against discrimination based on race, sexual orientation or gender identity. Nevertheless, despite this international leadership, multiple forms of discrimination persist in South Africa.

In this regard, Belgium would like to formulate the following recommendations to South Africa:

**R1.** To pursue and accelerate the passing into law of the Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Bill in order to protect specifically LGBTQI+ persons against harassment and discrimination by clearly classifying acts of violence against these persons as punishable hate crimes.

**R2.** To ensure full implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Feminicide through the adoption of decisive policies by relevant ministries, and address the backlog of gender-based violence cases, including domestic violence, by ensuring timely DNA testing and evidence preservation.

**R3.** To guarantee every child’s right to immediate, free birth registration and certification, regardless of their parents’ identity, status or documentation, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you, Mr. President