

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

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| **WG UPR – Japan**  ***Belgian intervention***  31 January 2023 |

President,

Belgium congratulates Japan with the adoption of its first National Action Plan Business and Human Rights and its 5th National Action Plan on gender equality. Nevertheless, Belgium believes more progress can be achieved and recommends the government of Japan to:

**R.1.** Enact comprehensive and enforceable anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting discrimination based on, amongst others, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics

**R2.** Amend the Penal Code to ensure it adequately addresses violence against women, including through provisions explicitly penalizing domestic violence, marital rape and incest.

As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium recommends Japan at least to:

**R3.**  Ensure that all safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty are respected and that proceedings are in conformity with the ICCPR, in particular article 14.

Thank you, President.