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

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| **WG UPR – Botswana**  ***Intervention de la Belgique***  *3 Mai 2023* |

President,

Belgium welcomes the numerous efforts of Botswana concerning the promotion and protection of human rights, including regarding the LGBTQI+ community. Despite the country's good results, various challenges remain, such as the application of the death penalty, gender-based violence and freedom of expression.

In this context, Belgium would like to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** Introduce an official moratorium on executions and continue an informed national public debate aimed at promoting full abolition of the death penalty.

**R2.** Continue and strengthen the training of all relevant professionals, including police officers and other law enforcement officials working with victims of gender-based violence, in order to facilitate their access to justice.

**R3.** Enact a comprehensive Freedom of Information law in line with Botswana’s constitutional and international legal obligations.

Thank you.