

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

**WG UPR 43 – Israel**

***Intervention of Belgium***

9 May 2023

President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Israel and wishes it every success in the exercise of its fourth Universal Periodic Review.

Belgium wishes to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** Conduct credible and transparent investigations into the excessive use of force, including lethal force, by Israeli security forces against civilians, including children, in the Occupied West Bank, identify areas of misconduct that do not adhere to obligations under international law, and implement a timely plan of action to ensure all conduct of Israeli security forces aligns with international law.

**R2.** Ensure that the recently proposed set of legislative changes regarding the Supreme Court will not pose risks to the effectiveness of the judiciary to defend the rule of law, human rights and judicial independence.

**R3.** Fully cooperate with the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and allow human rights organisations unrestricted access to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including the Gaza strip, to investigate suspected violations of international law by all parties.

Thank you, President.