

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

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| **WG UPR – Cambodia** ***Belgian intervention***30th January 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Cambodia and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third Universal Periodic Review. We are pleased with the good cooperation between Cambodia and the special rapporteur, Ms Rhona Smith. However, my delegation is concerned about Cambodia’s shrinking space for civil society and the lack of judicial independence.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Cambodia to:

**R1.** Amend the Law on Trade Unions in consultation with workers, labour advocates and other stakeholders, to bring it in full compliance with ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

**R2.** Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**R3.** Amend the Laws on the Organization of the Courts, the Statute of Judges and Prosecutors, and the Organization and Functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy, to guarantee and protect the independence of the judiciary.

Thank you, Mr. President.