

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

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| **WG UPR – Vietnam** ***Belgian intervention***22nd January 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Vietnam and congratulates Vietnam for living up to its promise of ratifying the Convention against Torture. However, Belgium is convinced that further progress can still be achieved. My delegation is particularly concerned about the shrinking space for civil society in Vietnam. Therefore, Belgium recommends the government to:

**R1.** Publicly recognize human rights defenders and provide an environment in which they can carry out their human rights work safely.

**R2.** Ratify ILO Conventions 87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise), 98 (Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining) and 105 (Abolition of Forced Labour).

**R3.** Provide accessfor independent monitoring bodies to all detention centers and prisons.

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

**R4.** Restrict the use of the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” under international law.

Thank you, Mr. President.