

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

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| **WG UPR – Vanuatu**  ***Belgian intervention***  24th January 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu and acknowledges positive steps taken by Vanuatu since the previous UPR, such as the Right to Information Act and amendments to the Penal Code on the offense of abduction. However, Belgium is convinced that more progress can be achieved, especially regarding the realization of women and children’s rights.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Vanuatu to:

**R1.** Put in place a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes.

**R2.** End all forms of discrimination against children with disabilities and take the necessary measures to enable children with disabilities to access education.

**R3.** Ensure that perpetrators of violence against women are duly prosecuted and punished with sentences that are commensurate with the seriousness of their crimes.

Thank you, Mr. President.