

Permanent Representation of Belgium

to the United Nations

and the international specialized institutions

in Geneva

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| **WG UPR 32 - Republic of Yemen**  ***Intervention of Belgium***  23 January 2019 |

Mr President,

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

The human rights situation in Yemen remains extremely dire. The protracted conflict has only exacerbated the challenges: Yemeni women and girls continue to face entrenched discrimination and other abuses, including forced and early marriage and domestic violence. Belgium therefore recommends the government of Yemen to:

**R1:** update and promptly implement its 2014 action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by its government forces;

**R2:** take all necessary measures to protect women and girls against all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

Lastly, as a strong proponent of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen, Belgium recommends the government of Yemen to:

**R3:** cooperate in a constructive and transparent manner with all UN human rights mechanisms, particularly those who are instrumental to ensure accountability for gross human rights violations, and to extend a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedures;

Thank you, Mr President.