

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

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| **WG UPR – Costa Rica*****Belgian intervention***13th May 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third Universal Periodic Review. We acknowledge the progress made by Costa Rica since its previous UPR. However, Belgium is convinced that further progress can still be achieved to increase the protection of human rights in line with the core international human rights treaties.

Therefore, we would like to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**R2.** Establish public policies that create a safe and respectful environment for the work of human rights defenders and ensure prompt and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations against human rights defenders, including the killing of environmental and indigenous human rights defenders.

**R3.** Reform the Criminal Code to decriminalize abortion in case of fetal malformations incompatible with extra uterine life and in case of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

Thank you, Mr. President.