

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

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| **WG UPR – El Salvador*****Belgian intervention***4th November 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of El Salvador and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third Universal Periodic Review. We take note of certain steps that were taken by El Salvador 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

Therefore, we would like to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** Step up efforts to prevent, combat and punish all acts of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual violence, by allocating adequate resources to the specialized jurisdiction for crimes against women and specialized institutional support units for women in the police force.

**R2.** Set up government policies that create a safe and respectful environment for the work of journalists and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders.

**R3.** Reinforce the rule of law and the fight against impunity by investigating violent crimes in a prompt, thorough and impartial manner, whereby those responsible are prosecuted and punished and victims receive full reparation.

**R4.** End detention of women who are wrongfully convicted for homicide after having suffered a miscarriage.

Thank you, Mr. President.