

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

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| **WG UPR – The Gambia*****Belgian intervention***5th November 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of the Gambia and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third UPR. We acknowledge the progress made by the Gambia since its previous UPR and especially welcome the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty. 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.** Ensure that all persons who had or were alleged to have committed offences of enforced disappearances or other grave human rights violations do not benefit from any special amnesty law.

**R2.** Enact anti-discrimination legislation containing a comprehensive list of grounds for discrimination in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and providing for access to remedy for victims of discrimination.

**R3.** Protect the freedom of expression by ensuring that all provisions of the Information and Communication Act of 2013 are brought into conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.