

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

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| **WG UPR – Iran**  ***Belgian intervention***  8th November 2019 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Iran and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third UPR. While acknowledging progress made in some areas since its previous UPR, we are convinced that further progress can 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.** Fully guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association by creating an enabling environment, especially for women human rights defenders and human rights lawyers.

**R2.** Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for both boys and girls without exception and eliminate the practice of early and forced marriage.

As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium further recommends at least to

**R3.** Abolish the death penalty for crimes committed by persons under 18 years of age, in accordance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and commute all death sentences for juvenile offenders.

Thank you, Mr. President.