

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

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| **WG UPR – Laos**  ***Belgian intervention***  21 January 2020 |

Madam President,

Belgium thanks the delegation of Laos for its presentation and commends the government for its cooperation with two UN Special Rapporteurs. Belgium is convinced that more progress can be achieved in line with the core international human rights treaties.

Belgium therefore recommends the government to:

**R1.** Ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly comply with the requirements of articles 19 and 21 of the ICCPR.

**R2.** Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ensure its effective implementation.

As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium recommends the government to:

**R3.** Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you, Madam President.