

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

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| **WG UPR – Turkey*****Belgian intervention***28th January 2020 |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes that Turkey, in line with our recommendations during the second UPR, has adopted legislation to curb the practice of early and forced marriages.

My country is however concerned about the deterioration of human rights and freedoms in Turkey since its previous UPR.

Belgium therefore recommends the government of Turkey to:

**R1.** Review the Anti-terror Law and the Turkish Penal Code to bring it in line with the Turkish Constitution and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**R2.** Ensure the independence of the judiciary by amending legislation so that the appointment of the judiciary better respects the principles of independence and impartiality.

**R3.** Strengthen law enforcement in the fight against early and forced marriages.

Thank you, Mr. President.