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# 36 Session of the UPR working group Recommendations by Finland to Belarus

# 2 November 2020

## Mme President,

Finland welcomes Belarus’ engagement in the UPR process. Finland wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Firstly, Finland recommends Belarus to ratify the Second Optional Protocol of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with the aim to abolish death penalty and as a first step establish an official moratorium on executions.
2. Secondly, Finland recommends Belarus to abide by the obligation under international law to respect the rights of journalists, human rights defenders and other individuals to exercise their freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.
3. Thirdly, Finland recommends Belarus to take immediate and effective steps to end and to prevent arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment of peaceful protesters and other individuals, and to bring those responsible to justice.

Thank you.