

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

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| **WG UPR – Maldives**  ***Belgian intervention***  4 November 2020 |

Madam President,

Belgium thanks the delegation of the Maldives for its presentation. My country welcomes the government’s intention to ratify two international human rights instruments. We also congratulate the Maldives with the appointment of two female judges in the Supreme Court.

However, Belgium is convinced more can be done and recommends the government to:

**R1.**  Adopt a National Action Plan for the elimination of gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual harassment, in consultation with the health, police, justice and social sectors as well as with civil society;

**R2.** Integrate comprehensive sexual education in the school curriculum.

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

**R3**. Maintain the moratorium on the application of the death penalty.

Thank you, Madam President.