

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

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| **WG UPR – Panama**  ***Belgian intervention***  3 November 2020 |

Madam President,

Belgium wishes to congratulate the government of Panama for its awareness raising campaigns regarding adolescent pregnancies.

Despite this commendable initiative, the high prevalence of pregnancies of teenagers remains a cause of concern.

In this context and seen the central role of education, Belgium recommends the government of Panama to:

**R1.** Redouble efforts towards the reduction of adolescent pregnancies, especially for girls between 10 and 14 years old, through the implementation of a strengthened program of comprehensive sexuality education;

**R2.** Address the root causes of gender discrimination and stereotypical gender roles in the field of education.

We congratulate Panama for adopting the National Indigenous Peoples Development Plan. However, in order to complement the existing anti-discrimination law and to address the specific situation of indigenous people, Belgium recommends the government of Panama to:

**R3.** Ratify ILO Convention No. 169 (concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries).

Thank you, Madam President