

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE**

**REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

**to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Check against delivery**

**36th Session of the UPR**

**Statement**

**of**

**Ms. Sejhan Zejnel**

**Third Secretary**

**Review of Belarus**

*Geneva, November 2, 2020*

Madame President,

I would like to extend our warm welcome to the delegation of Belarus and thank them for their presentation of the HR situation in the country.

Due to lack of time, please allow me to go directly to recommendations:

First, we recommend that Belarus cooperates fully with all relevant human rights mechanisms for a **comprehensive independent investigation** of recent events. We encourage Belarus to allow country visits for **all special procedures** mandate holders, including for the Special Rapporteur for the HR situation in Belarus.

Additionally, we urge the Belarusian authorities to take decisive measures to **fight against impunity** of those responsible for the **use of violence** against peaceful protesters, especially those responsible for **use of torture and sexual violence**.

We further recommend that Belarusian authorities ensure respect for human rights, including the **freedoms of expression online and offline, assembly and association, as well as the freedom of media.**

Finally, we recommend that Belarus considers ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the **death penalty**.

I thank you,