

**Delegation from the Kingdom of Belgium**  
***Position Paper for the Security Council***

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) are I. Youth, Peace, and Security, II. Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts and III. The Situation in Myanmar. The Kingdom of Belgium looks forward to working multilaterally with Member States in addressing these issues at the upcoming conference.

**I. Youth, Peace, and Security**

Belgium supports the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda which gained attention through SC resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018). We note with concern, that youth is highly involved in armed groups in Africa. SC resolution 2457 (2019) notes the importance of UN-African Union (AU) partnership on youth, peace and security. "Political, social and economic exclusion is a risk factor", said our permanent ambassador to the UN, expressing the risk of threatened international peace and security when youth cannot participate. Especially young women are frequently in charge of the economic wellbeing of their families. We acknowledge the efforts by the AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub and its close cooperation with Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in Europe and Africa. We welcome the Statement by the President of the SC 2019/15 in which he encourages Member States to mobilize the youth towards fulfilling the AU "Silencing the Guns by 2020" initiative. Belgium stresses the importance of an environment which enables young adults to participate in peace processes. Therefore, we contribute €3 million towards the Moroccan-Belgian project "Supporting Youth Entrepreneurship Development in Morocco" aiming for sustainable economic integration of the youth. In Burkina Faso, Belgium's development agency Enabel runs a project that teaches digital skills to young adults and thus supports the youth's engagement in their country's development. In 2018, Belgium hosted the European Union (EU) High Level Conference on Youth, Peace and Security "*Promoting Youth in Peacebuilding*" in Cooperation with UNESCO. This conference shows the EU's continuous support for the Youth, peace and security agenda. In 2017, we hosted the Youth, Peace and Security European Regional Consultation which also strengthens the SC resolution 2250. In this consultation, 40 young people from Europe could discuss the role of the youth regarding peace and security in their regions. In cooperation with the World Bank and the Government of Uganda, Belgium drafted the "Skilling Uganda" strategic plan, raising the number of young people benefitting from programs on employment. We see the urgency of further promotion of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, especially in Africa. Additionally, we recommend all Member States to support the "Silencing the Guns by 2020" initiative. As the African youth continues to grow, we promote a stronger UN-AU cooperation on involving the youth in peace and security processes. The SC should highlight the role of young women in all peace related and socio-economic processes. Recalling SC resolution 2457, we urge all Member States to include youth in the processes of maintaining and promoting peace, as we have successfully seen in Colombia and in the youth committee under the advisory committee in Afghanistan. Youth should be involved in regional, national and international mechanisms. We call on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to accelerate its youth employment and entrepreneurship initiative spread across whole Africa. Projects on the employment of young women should be implemented in Libya and Namibia, where unemployment rates of female youth are among the highest in the world. We urge Member States implement policy frameworks improving the socio-economic environment for young people and thereby stabilizing peace and security. Further, we promote a resolution acknowledging youth to be an important part of the national security sector reforms (SSR), as youth is not particularly mentioned in SC resolution 2151 (2014) on the topic of SSR.

**II. Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts**

Almost four years ago, Belgium faced its worst recent terrorist attack in which 32 people lost their lives and 340 people were injured. This shows that terrorism can happen anywhere in the world and that it is a global threat to peace and security. Bearing in mind that human trafficking and sexual exploitation are used to finance terrorism and that, especially in Central Africa, wildlife trafficking is a revenue stream for terrorist organizations, the International Community has to put an end to the different ways of financing terrorism. This development is underlined in the statement by our permanent representative to the UN: "Terrorists abuse both legitimate and illegitimate means of fundraising, and are constantly finding new ways to do so". Therefore, we acknowledge the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which created international standards on opposing terrorist financing, and also the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) established through General Assembly resolution 71/291 (2017) that works closely with Member States, Non-governmental Organizations (NGO), CSOs and the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). We stand behind SC resolution 2396 (2017) which encourages the sharing

of information on suspected terrorists and Foreign Terrorist Fighters through multilateral mechanisms. When fighting terrorism, Belgium stresses that international humanitarian law and human rights must not be violated at any point in time. Hence, we highly support the UN, the EU, the European Council and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in their measures and sanctions in the fight against terrorism. In October, the EU has extended its sanctions against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) / Da'esh showing our awareness that ISIL/Da'esh is still a threat to international peace and security. Following the terrorist attacks of 11th September 2001, the EU put up a "list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts and subject to restrictive measures". Belgium is also one of 81 members to the Global Coalition against Da'esh in whose working groups we actively participate and make military contributions to. On a national level, Belgium implemented an action plan to prevent radicalization which implemented consultation platforms on terrorism prevention in 2005. Also, we created a Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) databank containing records on every FTF in Belgium. A working group on FTF under the Global Counterterrorism Forum resulted from the action plan, too. We call on Member States to adapt the standards of the FATF and establish national legal services on terrorist financing. As the International community has to fight the problem of financing together, we also call on Member States to share their information on terrorist financing with other international agencies. Further, these services should work together with NGOs and CSOs to effectively criminalize the financing of terrorist groups. We propose that the CTC collaborates with the UNOCT on a report describing the different revenue streams which finance terrorism, including human trafficking, wildlife trafficking and sexual exploitation. The report should be published and used as a guidance for all Member States to implement measures on combatting the financing of terrorism. Improved border controls in the east African region are needed to prevent the illegal trade of humans, wildlife and drugs. We recommend the CTC to monitor the implementation of measures on FTF mentioned in resolution 2396 with respect to the "Addendum" (2018) to the *Madrid Guiding Principles* (2015).

### **III. The Situation in Myanmar**

Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said about the situation in Myanmar: "the situation seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing". More Rohingya Muslims live in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar than in Myanmar and the remaining minorities face human rights violations and sexual violence by the Tatmadaw. We acknowledge the latest ruling by the International Court of Justice indicating provisional measures for Myanmar. We welcome the extension of the *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) between the Government of Myanmar (GoM), UNDP and the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), but it has yet to deliver results on bringing the Rohingya refugees home. The "*Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Myanmar*" 2018/956 (2018) urged the GoM and the Tatmadaw to stop the child recruitments and called for a faster implementation of the Joint Action Plan. Belgium wants to highlight the need for full access to UN agencies, CSOs and NGOs working on peaceful de-escalation of the situation in Myanmar, especially Rakhine State. As a member of the EU, Belgium contributes to humanitarian aid in Myanmar through the EU's work. In total, the EU has given €249 million towards humanitarian operations and emergency relief programs, of which €140 million were provided since the current outbreak of the crisis in 2017. Last year, the European Commission (EC) committed to €9 million for those families who became victim to violence in Rakhine, Shan and Kachin states. Another €10 million from the EC will support the displaced minorities in Myanmar and Bangladesh. This shows the EU commitment towards helping the minorities in Myanmar. We see the crucial need for a SC resolution to accelerate the progress of adopting previous SC statements. Following points must be part of such resolution: First, urging the GoM to immediately grant access to humanitarian aid given by NGOs, CSOs and all UN agencies to its country. Second, deploying a supporting team to the Resident Coordinator. Third, defining a clear strategy regarding the human rights violations in Myanmar. And last, asking the Secretary General for a third report on the children in armed conflict. That strategy should facilitate the work of other UN agencies such as the Human Rights Council, UNDP and UNHCR. In order to grant full access to UN agencies, CSOs and NGOs, we call for the deployment of a supporting team to the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar. Together with his group, the Resident Coordinator should promote the cooperation between the UN, specifically the UNDP and UNHCR, and the GoM for which access to the country is needed. The team aims to accelerate the process of fulfilling the MoU and the Joint Action Plan by helping the GoM to develop solutions compatible with both Myanmar and UN needs. We also ask the Secretary General for a third report on the children and armed conflict in Myanmar to be submitted to the SC and its Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict, which updates SC resolutions 2018/956 and 2017/1099 (2017). Belgium is convinced that cooperation between the UN and the GoM is the key to end the human rights violations and shaping an environment in which the refugees can voluntarily and safely return.