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National statement delivered by

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**UNGA 78
THIRD COMMITTEE
Item 25: Advancement of Women
ID WG DAW**

New York, 3rd October 2023

President,

Belgium would like to reconfirm its support for the mandate of the working group on discrimination against women and girls. My country welcomes the statement made by the Working Group linked to World Contraception Day and International Safe Abortion Day.

As you rightly point out, sexual and reproductive health rights are interdependent from many other human rights. Gender equality is therefore not possible without guaranteeing these rights. While sexual and reproductive rights have unfortunately become amongst the most politicized, this should not be a contentious subject. We are all committed to the goals of gender equality, equal participation and a life free of violence for women and girls. But those goals cannot be reached without ensuring their sexual and reproductive health and rights. This includes effective access to information, to sexual and reproductive health services, to modern methods of contraception of choice and safe abortion as well as to comprehensive sexuality education for all.

Ms Estrada-Tanck,

We are confronted by a global rise of anti-gender movements and campaigns, with a disproportionate impact on the rights of women and girls, and LGBTQI+ persons. Sexual and reproductive rights are especially attacked, including comprehensive sexuality education. *Could you elaborate on how States, in collaboration with civil society, can counter these politically motivated and ideology-based roll backs of women's rights?*

Thank you, President.