

# KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

National statement delivered by

Gilles BAUWENS, Counsellor



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

**UNGA 78**

**THIRD COMMITTEE**

**Item 73: Promotion and protection of human rights  
Working Group on Enforced Disappearances**

16th October 2023

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President,

Belgium thanks the Working Group for the presentation of its work during the past year and aligns itself with the EU statement.

To this day, and to our great regret, nearly 80% of the enforced disappearance cases remain unsolved. This fact makes it all the more painful to learn that the Working Group has continued to receive reports this past year regarding countries where the perpetration of enforced disappearances is emerging.

Against this background, the lack of engagement and cooperation from a number of States is disconcerting. We deeply regret to learn that it has become increasingly difficult for the Working Group to receive positive replies to its requests for country visits. My delegation calls upon those States to respond positively as soon as possible. To effectively fulfil its mandate, it is of great importance that the Working Group can conduct country visits.

We also support your call to all States that have not done so to ratify or accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and accept the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances under articles 31 and 32 of the Convention to receive and consider communications. Belgium considers this Convention as an important tool in the fight against impunity and has ratified the Convention 12 years ago. We stand ready to share our experiences.

Ms. Baldé,

To fight the prevalence of enforced disappearances, it is crucial that the Committee and the Working Group can keep working together on this important topic. Do you see opportunities for more or more intense cooperation between the Working Group and the Committee?