

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

National statement delivered by

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KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

UNGA 78

THIRD COMMITTEE

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur,
Mr. Clément Nyaletsossi VOULE,
on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of
association**

Intervention by the Benelux countries

New York, 12th October 2023

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Benelux countries: the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Luxembourg and my own country, Belgium.

We agree with the conclusion of your report that guaranteeing the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, without discrimination, should be an integral part of all national, regional and international peace and transition processes.

We especially welcome the recognition in your report of the role of women's associations, women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders as drivers for peace. We unequivocally condemn intimidation of and violence against women and girls, especially in time of conflict, for exercising their freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, both online and offline.

Furthermore, we underscore that the failure to include youth, LGBTQI+ and victims' groups and other marginalized communities, results in further perpetuating violence discrimination against these groups. The promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of members of these groups need to be part of our efforts, including in the General Assembly, Peace Building Commission and Security Council.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

In your report, you mentioned the New Agenda for Peace that is being developed.

Q: How could the recommendations of your report be integrated in this agenda, in particular with attention to the aforementioned groups?