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Mr. Reinout Vos  
deputy CDP

## Universal Periodic Review 15 – Bahamas

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### Intervention by the Netherlands

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the government of the Bahamas for its national report and the extensive explanation of the national human rights situation in the Bahamas by mr/mrs..... here today.

During the last review of the Bahamas in 2008, the Netherlands recommended that the government of the Bahamas consult civil society in the implementation of the recommendations and report on these consultations during the second review. We have in this regard noted the 'town hall' meetings the government describes in its national report in order to promote development, of and dialogue with, civil society. We encourage the government of the Bahamas to further engage in dialogue with civil society over the course of the UPR cycles and UPR follow-up.

Secondly, the Netherlands noted the existence of the Domestic Violence Act 2007, providing for a comprehensive definition of domestic violence, and criminalizing stalking and harassment. We are pleased to see this act promoting equality of women but we are concerned to note that same-sex couples are explicitly not protected from domestic violence. By indicating that the term "partner" only refers to a relationship between man and woman, people are discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation. The Netherlands recommends the government of the Bahamas to include same-sex couples in the Domestic Violence Act and make sure everyone is protected against domestic violence.

Thank you, Madam President.