Universal Periodic Review 19 - Dominica

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the commendable progress made by Dominica on the advancement and promotion of women’s rights, gender mainstreaming and the overall empowerment of women. We hope that this progress will be sustained and will lead to the achievement of equal right for women.

Mr. President,

The situation of LGBT persons in Dominica is of concern to my country. Not only with regard to equal rights, but mainly when it comes to the unsafe environment for human rights defenders advocating equal rights for LGBT persons.

Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends the government of Dominica:

1. To step up its efforts and strengthen its measures to ensure gender equality by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
2. To establish anti-discrimination laws and regulations ensuring that LGBT persons and other vulnerable groups enjoy equal treatment.

Thank you, Mr. President.