

Universal Periodic Review 21 – Kyrgyzstan

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the government of Kyrgyzstan for its report. We have noted with appreciation the adoption of the 2010 Constitution's provisions on the separation of powers and the rule of law. We also welcome the steps Kyrgyzstan has taken to implement UPR recommendations accepted during the 2010 UPR, among which recommendations on the prevention of torture, violence against women and the fight against corruption.

We remain concerned, however, about recent trends that seem to run counter to the openness and freedom which characterize Kyrgyzstan and which made the country an example in the region, and especially about legislative initiatives negatively affecting the space for civil society, in particular LGBT people and organizations.

The Netherlands hopes the government of Kyrgyzstan will implement the recommendations it accepted in the previous UPR cycle relevant to principle of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and will ensure compliance of its domestic law and draft laws with the relevant provisions of the UN International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

- The Netherlands therefore recommends the government of Kyrgyzstan to adopt and implement legislation ensuring effective protection of LGBT people, *inter alia* on the prohibition of discrimination and hate crimes, a confidential complaints mechanism and protection of LGBT minors.
- The Netherlands recommends the government of Kyrgyzstan to abstain from the adoption of legislation limiting freedom of association as protected by the UN International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), in particular legislation on 'foreign agents'.

Thank you Mr. President