**Universal Periodic Review 22 –Marshall Islands**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the Republic of the Marshall Islands for its report.

We note the considerable efforts of the Marshall Islands to implement UPR recommendations and human rights instruments despite challenges with regard to capacity and adequate resources. We note with appreciation the standing invitation extended by the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Special Procedures and welcome steps taken as to implementation of recommendations by the Special Representative for toxic waste after his visit in 2012.

The Netherlands recommends the government:

1. to review the current policies and to develop, together with the private sector, a code of practice on HIV in the workplace, taking into account the International Standards of the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Organization.
2. to ensure political participation of women in governmental decision-making bodies in order to generate inclusive and balanced decision-making in matters that concern both women and men.

We make these recommendations because we are concerned about the protection of the rights of people living with HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and/or other sexually transmitted diseases, in particular about the requirement that a health service certificate needs to be obtained for acceptance in public service.

Also, considerable steps have been taken in the field of women’s rights, like the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act and a governmental gender policy. In light of the low number of female parliamentarians however, improvements can be made with regard to the political participation of women.

Thank you Mr. President.