**Universal Periodic Review 25 – Samoa**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the Government of Samoa for its comprehensive report and commends Samoa for the progress made in implementing, promoting and protecting human rights within its legislative and policy frameworks.

We do have some concerns about the discrimination on the ground of gender identity in Samoa. We would also like to encourage the government to engage even more widely in the UN human rights system.

The Netherlands therefore recommends the government:

1. to prohibit discrimination on the ground of gender identity in employment legislation, such as the *Labour and Employment Relations Act, 2013*.
2. to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thank you Mr. President.