**Universal Periodic Review – Uganda**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Netherlands wishes to thank Uganda for its comprehensive report.

We commend Uganda for its progressive refugee policy and recognize the tremendous efforts to welcome large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers from the region.

The Netherlands welcomes the value Uganda attaches to NGOs and civil society organizations in the country. It is important that laws cannot be misinterpreted to target civil society organizations and restrict their activities.

The Netherlands recommends Uganda to:

1. Amend Sections 44(d) and 44(f) as well as Section 30(1) (a) of the Non-Governmental Organizations Act (2016) to align them with the Ugandan Constitution and International Human Rights Law.
2. Increase access to sexual and reproductive health services for vulnerable groups, including sexual minorities, by raising the health budget to 15 per cent in line with the Abuja declaration

The Netherlands highly values the right to health for all as specified in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the African Charter.

We believe it is also important to ensure that the LGBTI-community is not disproportionately affected by social stigma that could limit their access to health services.

Thank you, Mr. President.