**UPR Finland – 27th session – May 2017**

**Statement by the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks Finland for its comprehensive national report.

We welcome the strong commitment of the government of Finland to continuously strengthen and promote the protection of all human rights in Finland,
The Netherlands has two recommendations for Finland:

1. To allocate sufficient resources in order to ensure full implementation of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence;
2. To amend the current Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals by abolishing the need for sterilization or infertility as requirement for a person’s legal recognition of their gender identity.

We commend the government of Finland for ratifying The Istanbul Convention and establishing a Committee that will prepare a plan for its implementation.

The Netherlands also appreciates the steps Finland has taken in order to legalize same sex marriage as of March 2017.

The Netherlands looks forward to continued close cooperation with Finland and stands ready to share its experiences with regard to legal recognition of gender identity.

The Netherlands wishes Finland every success in this UPR.

Thank you, mister President.

Advanced questions:

1. In response to paragraph 27 of your national report, the Netherlands would like to ask how operations of the Committee have progressed since the beginning of 2017 with regards to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention?
2. In response to paragraph 143 of your national report, the Netherlands would like to ask if the intended study on the rights and experiences of intersexual children under the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017 – 2019 has been started and how the Finnish government will proceed on its outcomes?