**Universal Periodic Review 44– Cuba**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Cuba for the presentation of its national report.

Building on EU27 declarations responding to 11 July 2021 and its aftermath, we welcome steps by the Cuban government to engage in dialogue with its citizens about their legitimate grievances.

We recommend Cuba to:

1. Cease harassment, repression, arbitrary arrests and detention of civil society, including human rights defenders and safeguard all civil and political rights, including freedom of movement as guaranteed by the Cuban constitution.

2. Ensure that all independent journalists and members of civil society can exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, both online and offline, without fear of persecution or censorship.

In conclusion, we commend Cuba for the provisions safeguarding human rights of LGBTQI+ persons in the new ‘Family Code’.

Thank you, President.