**Universal Periodic Review 44– Tuvalu**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends the Tuvaluan Government for outlawing discrimination on the grounds of sex and ability in its new constitution this year.

We note with regret that the criminalized status of same-sex relationships has not changed for the better. We remain concerned about the challenges that prevent the full, meaningful and equal enjoyment of human rights and inclusion in society by LGBTQI+ persons in Tuvalu.

The Netherlands recommends Tuvalu to:

1. Decriminalize consensual same sex activities and to amend existing legislation that discriminates against LGBTQI+ persons.

2. Establish a National Human Rights Institution compliant with the Paris Principles.

The Netherlands wishes Tuvalu success with the implementation and follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this fourth UPR cycle.

I Thank you.