**Universal Periodic Review 45 – Mauritius**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

We commend the Government of Mauritius for the valuable work done as gender focal point for the UN Human Rights Council in 2023 and for decriminalizing same sex relations.

We are concerned about the protection of human rights defenders and the guarantee of freedom of expression online and offline.

The Netherlands recommends:

1. To adopt and enact a legal framework to prevent infringement on personal data and unwarranted surveillance, and establish independent judicial oversight for it.
2. To take measures to protect civic space, ensure freedom of expression and assembly and participation in the democratic debate for independent media and journalists.

We wish the delegation of Mauritius every success in its review.

Thank you.