**Universal Periodic Review 43 – Senegal**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

We commends Senegal with the adoption of a law criminalizing rape and paedophilia. This law contributes to combating violence against women and children.

We are concerned by the continued discrimination against minorities as well as the shrinking civic space.

The Netherlands recommends that Senegal:

1. Takes concrete measures to end violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ and other minorities by promoting the principles of non-violence and non-discrimination and by repealing Article 319 of the Penal Code.

2. Aligns national legislation with international standards on freedom of expression, including decriminalization of press offences.

The Netherlands wishes the Republic of Senegal success with the follow-up.

Thank you, President.