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**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you, Mr President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the delegation of Cambodia and commends the government for its commitment to promote inclusiveness of sexual orientation, particularly for LGBTQI+ persons.

However, we remain concerned about reprisals and arbitrary restrictions against human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society organizations.

Therefore, the Netherlands **recommends** to:

1. Abolish or amend articles 494 and 495 of the Criminal Code, repeal the 2021 Sub-Decree on the Establishment of the National Internet Gateway, and repeal the Law on Associations and Non-governmental Organizations, to ensure a free civic space, and protect fundamental freedoms of human rights defenders and journalists.
2. Continue progress towards enacting legal amendments to recognize legal marriage equality for same-sex couples to guarantee full equality and social inclusion of LGBTIQ+ persons.

We wish Cambodia every success in its review.

Thank you, Mr President.