**Periodic Review 46 – the Union of the Comoros**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

We commend the Comorian Government on advances made in countering gender based violence, specifically the steps taken to improve the judicial framework; the establishment of watch and alert committees against GBV, as well as listening centres; and efforts to engage key actors and bystanders in sensibilisation trainings.

The Netherlands, however, remains concerned about the prevalence of gender based violence, despite the earlier mentioned advances. We are furthermore concerned that the recommendation during the previous UPR cycle to abolish the death penalty has not been adopted, and that, as of 2020 the penalty has been integrated in the penal code.

The Netherlands recommends the Comoros:

1. To continue to improve steps taken to counter gender based violence and violence against women and children, by adopting a national strategy which also focusses on education of youngsters about the issues.
2. To abolish the death penalty.

I thank you.