**Universal Periodic Review 46 – Vanuatu**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends Vanuatu on the ongoing efforts to combat gender discrimination, harmful practices and violence against women through laws and policies, and welcomes the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy (2020-2030).

The Netherlands recommends to:

1. Abolish child, early and forced marriages by setting the minimum age for both men and women at 18 years;

2. Continue to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act;

3. Adopt further comprehensive measures to combat domestic violence, with a special focus on women and girls with disabilities, who are at greater risk of all sorts of violence.

The Netherlands wishes Vanuatu success with the follow-up of all recommendations received during this UPR cycle.

Thank you, President.