**Universal Periodic Review 48 – Italy**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Madame Vice-President,

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

We commend the Italian government for the adoption of a National Strategy for Gender Equality and a National LGBT+ Strategy.

The Netherlands encourages Italy to enhance its efforts to protect freedom of the media by better aligning the protection of journalists to international standards.

We, therefore, recommend Italy to:

1. Further strengthen media freedom by accelerating the reforms of the legal regimes governing defamation, and the protection of professional secrecy and journalistic sources in line with international human rights standards.
2. Further enhance equal rights of LGBTIQ+ persons by taking measures to allow children to be adopted by same-sex couples and to ensure the same legal protection is granted to children regardless of the composition of the family they live in.

The Netherlands wishes Italy every success with the implementation and follow-up of all accepted recommendations.

Thank you,

Madame Vice-President.