**Universal Periodic Review 37 – The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to thank the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis for the presentation of its national report.

We welcome the launch of the National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan in 2018 and strongly encourage St Kitts and Nevis to continue working towards gender equality. We remain concerned about the stigma of and discrimination against LGBTI persons.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends the government of St Kitts and Nevis, to:

1. Decriminalize same sex consensual relations in all provisions of Saint Kitts and Nevis’ legislation, especially Sections 56 and 57 of The Offences against the Person Act.

2. Amend the criminal law provisions regarding rape to include a specific provision on marital rape.

The Netherlands wishes St Kitts and Nevis every success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.