**Universal Periodic Review 37 – Saint Lucia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you President,

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

We encourage St. Lucia to continue working towards the abolishment of the death penalty, in practice and in law.

We welcome progress in the field of gender equality including the completion of the National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence and the drafting of the Domestic Violence Bill. Challenges remain with regard to sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially regarding young people, as well as the rights of LGBTI persons.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends St. Lucia:

1. To adopt effective comprehensive sexuality education programs for the youth in line with UN technical guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education to raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights;
2. to introduce legal and practical measures to eliminate discrimination against LGBTI persons, including by repealing the current legislation, passing appropriate anti-discrimination legislation and raising public awareness.

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

Thank you, Mr. President