**Universal Periodic Review 37 – São Tomé and Príncipe**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – 29 January 2021**

Madame President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of São Tomé and Príncipefor the presentation of its national report.

We welcome the [ratification](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37077-sl-PROTOCOL%20TO%20THE%20AFRICAN%20CHARTER%20ON%20HUMAN%20AND%20PEOPLE%27S%20RIGHTS%20ON%20THE%20RIGHTS%20OF%20WOMEN%20IN%20AFRICA.pdf) of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2019, as well as the establishment of the *Centro de Aconcelhamento Contra Violência Doméstica*. The Netherlands furthermore commends the enactment of national legislation for the protection of children and the development of national policies promoting the rights of the child. However, the Netherlands remains concerned about the widespread occurrence of gender inequalities and inequities in São Tomé and Príncipe.

We therefore recommend São Tomé and Príncipe, to:

1. enact general legislation for the protection of women against sexual harassment, regardless of the environment wherein the offence is committed.
2. adopt legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, in repetition of the last UPR cycle.

The Netherlands wishes the delegation of São Tomé and Príncipesuccess with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

I thank you, Madame President.