**Universal Periodic Review 38 – Namibia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – 3 May 2021**

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

Additionally, we warmly welcome the fact that Namibia is currently hosting the World Press Freedom conference.

The Netherlands commends the Government of Namibia for its efforts undertaken to combat violence against women such as the Prioritized National Plan of Action on Gender Based Violence launched in October 2020. However, the Netherlands has concerns about the implementation of these policies.

The Netherlands **recommends** Namibia:

1. To revise existing laws on abortion, including the Abortion and Sterilization Act of 1975, and develop national service protocols and provider training guidelines in accordance with the Maputo Protocol and WHO best practices.
2. To amend legislation in order to abolish any provisions discriminating against LGBTI persons, including those provisions criminalizing consensual same-sex acts between adults of the same sex.

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

Thank you.