**Universal Periodic Review 38 – Palau**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – 7 May 2021**

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

The Netherlands commends the Government of Palau for its pro-active role in engaging with Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures. Additionally, we welcome the development of the *Palau Country Plan 2020-2022* aimed at improving the political, economic and social opportunities of Palauan women.

However, we note with concern that legislation aimed at combatting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is still lacking.

The Netherlands **recommends** Palau:

1. To introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. To repeal and amend laws and regulations establishing age and third party authorization requirements for adolescents to access sexual and reproductive health information, education and services.

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

Thank you.