**Universal Periodic Review 38 – Seychelles**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – 10 May**

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

The Netherlands commends the Seychelles on 1) its repeal of the law criminalizing same-sex relationships between consenting adults, 2) the establishment of a policy that allows girls to return to school after giving birth, and 3) the promotion of freedom of the press through the Access to Information Act.

However, we remain concerned about acts of gender-based violence and the persistence of discriminatory gender stereotypes and societal discrimination against LGBTI people; as well as limited media pluralism, lack of media freedom and freedom of expression.

The Netherlands **recommends** the Seychelles:

1. To bring its legislation into conformity with its commitment to non-discrimination and equality by adopting comprehensive legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, as previously recommended.
2. To put in place transparent procedures for the selection of members of the Media Commission;
3. To actively promote the plurality of the media and ensure their impartial participation in awareness and sensitization campaigns.

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

Thank you.