**Universal Periodic Review 38 – Solomon Islands**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – 10 May 2021**

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

The Netherlands commends the Solomon Islands for steps taken to promote gender equality such as the *National Gender Equality and Women’s Development Policy 2016-2020*. However,physical and sexual violence, discrimination and gender inequalities, remain a source of concern.

The Netherlands **recommends** the Solomon Islands:

1. To adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to prevent and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
2. To develop and adopt comprehensive sexuality education in the mandatory school curriculum in line with the United Nations international technical guidance on sexuality education.
3. To end child, early and forced marriage by raising the minimum age for marriage from 15 to 18 years.

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

Thank you.