**Universal Periodic Review 39 – Antigua and Barbuda**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands notes that no executions have occurred in the country since 1991 and no person is currently on death row. However, we regret that the government of Antigua and Barbuda has not imposed an official moratorium on carrying out death sentences. We are equally concerned about inadequate conditions of detention and the admissibility of evidence obtained through torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Pertaining to equal rights for LGBTI persons, the Netherlands remains concerned about discrimination faced by sexual minorities in the country, including the criminalisation of consensual same-sex relations or conducts.

Therefore, the Netherlands **recommends** the government of Antigua and Barbuda to:

1. Establish an official moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, so as to bring national legislation into conformity with the de facto moratorium;

2. Repeal articles 12 and 15 of the Sexual Offence Act of 1995 that criminalize sexual relations between consenting individuals of the same sex, which are contradictory to the commitment of non-discrimination.

The Netherlands wishes the government of Antigua and Barbuda success with the follow-up of all recommendations.

Thank you.