**Universal Periodic Review 39 – Ireland**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends the steps undertaken towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and encourages Ireland to ratify the protocol at the earliest possible date.

The Netherlands **recommends** Ireland:

1. to build on the steps undertaken in the area of sexual and reproductive rights by removing the remaining barriers to accessing safe and legal abortion services and making it practically available to all.

2. to ensure that vulnerable communities, including Travellers, Roma, migrants and refugees, have full access to and are actively informed about their rights, such as in the areas of education and employment.

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

Thank you.