**Universal Periodic Review 39 – Samoa**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Madam President,

The Netherlands thanks the Government of Samoa for its comprehensive report and welcomes the efforts made to advance human rights and equality within legislative and policy frameworks, including the proposed Labour Employment Relations Act Amendment Bill.

We encourage the Government of Samoa to further commit to ensuring gender equality at all levels, from local to national.

We are concerned about the continued prohibition of consensual same-sex relations in Samoa.

The Netherlands therefore recommends the Government:

1. Decriminalise consensual same-sex sexual conduct by repealing section 67, 68 and 71 of the Crimes Act.
2. Adopt and enforce measures to ensure equal participation, representation and renumeration of women in political processes at all levels, from local to national.

I thank you.