**Universal Periodic Review 40– Republic of Moldova**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

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

The Netherlands welcomes Moldova’s ratification of the Istanbul Convention against violence against women and domestic violence, as well as the progress registered for the adoption in the second reading of the hate crime legislation.

The Netherlands welcomes the commitments of Moldovan authorities to reform its justice sector and

**recommends** Moldova:

1. To develop national mechanisms to properly investigate and sanction hate speech and hate crimes , including towards members of the LGBTI community.

2. To strengthen overall human rights protection by effectively reforming the justice sector in line with the Venice Commission recommendations , including by guaranteeing a transparent, inclusive, timely, broadly consulted and consistent legal process, restoring the independence of both judicial and prosecutors systems, and ensuring the right to a fair and transparent justice process for all citizens.

The Netherlands wishes Moldova success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.Thank you, Mr. President.