Universal Periodic Review 41– Ecuador

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends the Government of Ecuador on concluding agreements with indigenous organizations in Ecuador, and hopes for constructive cooperation between all stakeholders to find consensus on remaining issues and to ensure implementation of the agreements.

The Netherlands is concerned that -in spite of adequate laws and policies- sexual and gender based violence against women and girls and the LGBTIQ+ community remains a great problem.

The Netherlands recommends the government of Ecuador:

1. To increase the scope and strengthen state programs for education and prevention in Comprehensive Sexual Health, taking into account the alarming rates of sexual violence and unwanted pregnancies, or pregnancies resulting from rape, especially in areas with limited access to health and justice services.
2. Guarantee access to justice and reduce impunity in cases of physical and sexual violence and murders against the LGBTIQ+ community, especially the transgender population.
3. Establish a legal framework for the protection of human rights defenders and indigenous people in isolation, that allows them to access justice in cases in which private companies abuse criminal and civil law against them, as well as provide reparation measures for victims and their families.

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

Thank you, Mister President.