**Universal Periodic Review 41– Morocco**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands commends Morocco on adopting legislation to protect women against violence, criminalizing harassment in public places, including online.

We are however concerned about the lack of progress in the field of children’s rights, such as the continued occurrence of child marriages, and gender, including the criminalization of sexual relations outside marriage.

The Netherlands **recommends** Morocco:

1. To decriminalize consensual sexual relations, including by repealing the provisions in articles 489 to 493 of the Criminal Code prohibiting same-sex sexual relations, sexual relations outside marriage and adultery);
2. To review Penal Code provisions regarding freedom of expression, in conformity with article 19 of the ICCPR.

Thank you.

[55 sec]