**Universal Periodic Review 43 – Commonwealth of the Bahamas**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

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

We commend the Bahamas for the implementation of our supported recommendation and their regular reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Netherlands, however, notes that the Bahamas does not yet allow women or unmarried men to confer their nationality to their children. As such, children of a Bahamian woman and a non-Bahamian man run the risk of being stateless and are, therefore, more vulnerable to fall victim to human trafficking.

In relation to gender equality and the rights of LGBTQI+ persons, the Netherlands recommends the Bahamas to:

1. Continue efforts to amend the Nationality Law in order to ensure the equal right of women to confer their nationality to their children;
2. Consider adopting marriage equality legislation, extending full marital rights to same-sex couples, in line with the Advisory Opinion of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of 9 January 2018, before the next review.

The Netherlands wishes the Bahamas every success with the implementation and the follow-up of all accepted recommendations it receives during this fourth UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.