**Universal Periodic Review 29 – Commonwealth of the Bahamas**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for its comprehensive report.

We welcome the acceptance of most recommendations given to the Bahamas during the previous UPR review.

With a view to further improving the human rights situation,

1. The Netherlands recommends the Bahamas to include same-sex couples in the Domestic Violence Act in order to repeal all provisions that discriminate against persons on grounds of their sexual orientation.
2. We also recommend the Bahamas to report more regularly to the treaty bodies, specifically with regard to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Netherlands regrets the fact that the Bahamas rejected all previous UPR recommendations related to the establishment of a moratorium on executions or to the abolition of the death penalty, in line with UN General Assembly resolution 65/206 from 2010 amongst others.

We sincerely thank the delegation from the Bahamas for taking our recommendations into consideration and wish the Bahamas all the success in its UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.