**Universal Periodic Review 30 –Cuba**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** *(shortened for delivery)*

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Cuba for its report.

The Netherlands welcomes the frank and open dialogue on human rights, both bilaterally and within the framework of the EU-Cuba Political dialogue and Cooperation Agreement.

We welcome the lifting of some travel restrictions for Cuban nationals travelling abroad. However, we regret that some citizens are still unable to travel abroad to participate in international fora such as the UPR pre-session.

We call on Cuba to protect all persons who are the targets of intimidation or violence, in particular LGBTI persons.

The Netherlands recommends Cuba to:

1. Act in accordance with and ratify the already signed ICCPR and ICESCR without restrictions to freedom of expression, freedom of press or freedom of assembly and take the necessary measures to incorporate them into its national legislation.
2. To take measures to put an end to arbitrary detentions by ensuring that persons under arrest have immediate access to a defense counsel and are promptly brought before an independent judge for a hearing on the adoption of any measure entailing deprivation of liberty, including pretrial detention[[1]](https://247.plaza.buzaservices.nl/sites/3commrr/Shared%20Documents/UPR/UPR30/Cuba/Interventies/UPR%2030%20-%20Cuba.docx#_ftn1).

We wish Cuba all the success in this UPR.

 Thank you, Mr. President.

[[1]](https://247.plaza.buzaservices.nl/sites/3commrr/Shared%20Documents/UPR/UPR30/Cuba/Interventies/UPR%2030%20-%20Cuba.docx#_ftnref1) <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/066/23/PDF/G1806623.pdf?OpenElement>, para. 18