**Universal Periodic Review – Tuvalu (9 May 2018)**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Tuvalu for the introductory remarks provided today.

We welcome the efforts of the government to adopt an ambitious Human Rights National Action plan. We also welcome the passing of a bill creating a national human rights institution and look forward to the prompt establishment of this institution.

The Netherlands recommends Tuvalu to:

1. Review and subsequently amend OR repeal legislation entailing gender-related discrimination, including provisions in the Penal Code of 1978 and the Marriage Act, and
2. To prioritize the full implementation of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act of 2014, including by ensuring that women and girls survivors of violence have access to effective means of redress and protection AND by raising societal awareness about the content of the act.

As noted by the UN Country Team, gender-related discrimination in legislation still exists. For instance, when it comes to land inheritance and child custody rights. There are also no provisions specifically prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

We hope that this UPR review will provide Tuvalu with the positive momentum to take additional measures in this regard.

We welcome the adoption by Tuvalu of the ‘Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act’. However, a lack of awareness amongst women about their rights could hamper the effective implementation of the Act.

We thank the delegation from Tuvalu present today and wish Tuvalu all the success in its UPR.   
   
Thank you, Mr. President.