**Universal Periodic Review – Uzbekistan (9 May 2018) Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of The Netherlands thanks the delegation of Uzbekistan for the presentation of the national report.

The Netherlands commends Uzbekistan for several positive developments since its last UPR session including the successful country visits of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Religion or Belief in 2017.

We welcome the efforts undertaken aimed at eliminating child labour and the ratification of all fundamental ILO Conventions.

The Netherlands regrets that Uzbekistan has not accepted any previous recommendations on the situation and the rights of LGBTI-persons.

The Netherlands would like to make the following two recommendations:

1. Firstly, eradicate forced labour entirely, including in the cotton harvest sector, through the effective enforcement of the legal framework prohibiting forced labour and holding those responsible for violations to account.
2. Secondly, combat violence and discrimination on all grounds including on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity, through the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and by investigating and prosecuting all acts of violence and discrimination.

We thank the delegation of Uzbekistan and wish Uzbekistan all the best in its UPR.

I thank you, Mr. President.