**Universal Periodic Review – Republic of Mauritius**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands - 7 November 2018**

Thank you Mr President,

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

The Netherlands commends Mauritius’ commitment to improving women’s rights through the envisaged Gender Equality Bill and its efforts to improve the rights of children through the long-awaited Children’s Bill. Swiftly adopting and implementing these bills will be an important step forward for the protection of human rights in Mauritius.

The Netherlands also welcomes the Republic of Mauritius’ status as a signatory to the ICCPR, as well as its constitutional provision of equality for all. We take note of the increased tolerance for homosexuality among its population.

The Netherlands **recommends** the Republic of Mauritius

1. To continue to strengthen efforts to combat child abuse in all its forms, by adopting and implementing the Children’s Bill with particular attention to issues such as corporal punishment, early and forced marriage, trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced prostitution.
2. To implement policies and programmes to protect LGBTI people from violence and intimidation, for instance by developing training programmes for police officers, or by including attacks against LGBTI people under section 282 of the Criminal Code Act 1838.

The Netherlands wishes the government of Mauritius every success with the implementation, reporting and follow-up of all the UPR recommendations that it receives during this third UPR cycle.

I thank you, Mr President.