**Universal Periodic Review 32 – New Zealand**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 21 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The Netherlands would specifically like to commend the Government of New Zealand for prioritising the development of a comprehensive action plan under the auspices of the Human Rights Commissioner, and in particular for targeting gender-based violence in consultation with all relevant actors.

Building on initiatives already undertaken by the Government of New Zealand, further measures would be welcomed to ensure full and consistent protection of human rights, specifically Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Children’s rights, in domestic laws and policies.

The Netherlands **recommends** New Zealand:

1. To remove abortion from the Crimes Act 1961 and review the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977 to ensure that abortion is decriminalized in all circumstances, and all women and girls can access safe and legal abortion as an integrated component of sexual and reproductive health services, in reference also to the adoption of SDG target 3.7 and 5.6.
2. Implement and allocate sustainable resources for the long term to combat family and sexual violence aimed at developing a comprehensive and coherent prevention strategy for gender-based violence against women.

The Netherlands wishes New Zealand success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr President.