**Universal Periodic Review 32 – The Comoros**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 25 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The Netherlands commends the Comoros for the improvements it has made in the electoral process over the past few years. The rotating presidency has further contributed to the country’s stability.

Despite such progress, The Netherlands remains concerned about the limitations on fundamental freedoms, specifically the lack of participation of women in public and political life, and the rights of the LGBTI community.

Therefore, The Netherlands **recommends** the Comoros:

1. To refrain from censorship of the press and to allow journalists to carry out their work without fear of repercussions;
2. To allow opposition groups and persons belonging to religious minorities to exercise, without any limitations, their right to peaceful assembly.

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

Thank you, Mr President.