**Universal Periodic Review 32 – Slovakia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 28 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The Netherlands commends the Slovak Republic for the adoption of the National Strategy and the Action Plan for Gender Equality.

The Netherlands also commends the Slovak Republic for positive developments relating to the rights of LGBTI persons, including the successful course of this year’s Pride parade, the establishment of a Committee on the Rights of LGBTI persons, and the development of a draft Action Plan. Despite these developments however, LGBTI persons still face discrimination and are excluded from the exercise of certain rights, based on their sexual identity.

The Netherlands welcomes preparations for the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture but notes that the Optional protocol has not yet been ratified.

Therefore, The Netherlands **recommends** Slovakia:

1. To end discrimination against same-sex couples and legalize the registration of same-sex partnerships.
2. To strengthen measures to prevent acts of torture and other inhumane treatment or punishment by ratifying and implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

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

Thank you, Mr President.