**Universal Periodic Review 32 – Cyprus**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 29 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The Netherlands is very much aware that the ongoing division of the island has human rights implications. Therefore, we encourage Cyprus to continue efforts towards re-unification.

The Netherlands commends Cyprus on the progress made in the field of equal rights for LGBTI persons, and on the accession of Cyprus to the Equal Rights Coalition.

However, discrimination, particularly on the basis of racial and ethnic background, remains a concern. Further steps need to be taken to ensure the non-discriminatory application of the law on obtaining Cypriot nationality and to prevent statelessness.

The Netherlands therefore **recommends** Cyprus:

1. To ensure the non-discriminatory application of the law regulating Cypriot nationality, so as to guarantee equal access to fundamental rights for all people on its territory, and to prevent statelessness by acceding to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 2000 European Convention on Nationality.
2. To ensure that the right of freedom of expression is equally guaranteed and enjoyed by all of its citizens and community members, including by those involved in inter-communal activities andjournalists.

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

I thank you, Mr President.