**Universal Periodic Review 32 – Dominican Republic**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 30 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The Netherlands welcomes the efforts made by the Dominican government to improve women’s rights and gender equality, as evidenced by the National Plan against domestic violence and the country’s improved position in the Global Gender Gap ranking.

However, challenges in this area remain. The Netherlands is concerned about violence against women and high maternal mortality rates. The Netherlands would also like to raise attention to discrimination against LGBTI persons.

The Netherlands **recommends** the Dominican Republic:

1. To address the issue of maternal mortality by crafting a comprehensive action plan, and to decriminalize abortion on the grounds of incest, rape and acute danger to the mother’s life.
2. To adopt legislation protecting LGBTI persons against violence and discrimination in Dominican society.

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

Thank you, Mr President.