**Universal Periodic Review 32 – Cambodia**

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

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The Netherlands commends Cambodia for its commitment to inclusive instruction on sexual orientation issues, sexual education and GBV for grades 5-12.

However, we are particularly concerned by the increasing and arbitrary restrictions on civil society organizations and the media.

Therefore, The Netherlands **recommends** Cambodia:

1. To ensure a free civic space, allowing human rights defenders and journalists to freely express themselves both offline and online, without fear of harassment or reprisal, and to refrain from prosecution for exercising their fundamental rights under the Criminal Code and the Law on Telecommunications.
2. To amend Article 45 of the Constitution, so as to enable legal marriage equality, with a view to pursuing full equal treatment of LGBTI persons in all areas.

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

Thank you, Mr President.