**Universal Periodic Review 33 – Republic of Albania**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 6 May 2019**

Mr President,

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

The Netherlands commends Albania for the recent adoption of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security. We encourage Albania to streamline this action plan with the overall gender mainstreaming policy and the current and forthcoming National Strategy on Gender Equality.

The Netherlands also commends Albania for the enhancement of the legal framework on domestic violence, which integrates a victim-centered approach in the rules and procedures of the law enforcement agencies. Still, there are concerns regarding the implementation of these legal amendments.

Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands **recommends** the Republic of Albania:

1. To put into effect a follow-up plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, specifically on prevention of domestic violence, rehabilitation of victims and engagement with perpetrators, in line with SDG 5.
2. To enhance efforts to implement the LGBTI National Action Plan, particularly the review of academic curricula on gender stereotypes and gender identity, in line with SDGs5 and 10.

The Netherlands wishes the Republic of Albania success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this 3rd UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr President.