**Universal Periodic Review 33 – Costa Rica**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 13 May 2019**

Mr President,

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

We commend Costa Rica for steps taken after the advisory opinion of the Inter American Court of Human Rights with regard to Same Sex Couples. The next step is to work towards eradication of social and institutional discrimination against LGBTI persons.

Furthermore, we welcome the approval of emergency contraception. However, the number of teen and child pregnancies remains worrisome, as does the lack of a safe, regulated, possibility to terminate unwanted pregnancies in certain cases.

Therefore, we **recommend** Costa Rica:

1. To draft and implement an action plan to eliminate all forms of social and institutional discrimination against LGBTI persons, which includes a monitoring process.
2. To address the issue of child and teen pregnancies by legalizing abortion at least in the case of an inviable foetus, rape, incest, or when the pregnancy poses a threat to the woman’s life; and to invest in prevention by granting free access to emergency contraception and organizing awareness campaigns and comprehensive sexuality education.

The Netherlands wishes Costa Rica success with the follow-up of the recommendations it receives during this UPR.

Thank you Mr President