**Universal Periodic Review 34 – Egypt**

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

Mr President,

The Netherlands **recommends** Egypt to:

1. Release all persons detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression (on- and offline), association and assembly and close Case 173/2011 against Egyptian NGOs and human rights defenders, in line with international human rights obligations.
2. End the practice of entrapment and subsequent arrest and prosecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Respect for binding international human rights norms will enhance Egypt’s stability in the long term.

The Netherlands welcomes Egypt’s National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women and encourages its full implementation before it expires in 2020.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Egypt. Restrictions on freedom of expression have resulted in decreasing civil society space. We are concerned about continuing reports of enforced disappearances, ill-treatment and torture, as well as the high number of detainees in pre-trial detention and trials that do not meet due process requirements.

Thank you, Mr President.