**Universal Periodic Review 34 – Fiji**

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Netherlands congratulates the government of Fiji with the ratification of all 9 core human rights treaties and conventions.

Despite measures taken to eliminate gender based violence, the Netherlands remains concerned about the high-level of sexual violence against women and girls and the rising stigmatization of the LGBTI-community in the country.

The Netherlands **recommends** Fiji to:

1. Develop and implement an inclusive national action plan for the prevention of sexual violence against women and girls, in line with SDGs 5 and 16.
2. Repeal all laws and policies that unlawfully restrict fundamental rights of freedom of expression, assembly and association, including sections of the Public Order Act Amendment Decree, the Media Industry Development Decree, the 2014 Electoral Decree and the Online Safety Bill, in line with SDG 16.

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

Thank you, Mr. President