**Universal Periodic Review 34 – Kyrgyzstan**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 20 January 2020**

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Netherlands welcomes the positive developments in the area of women’s rights since the last UPR cycle, such as the adoption of a National Gender Action Plan and the introduction of a law on domestic violence. We encourage the government of Kyrgyzstan to ensure that these measures are fully implemented and enforced.

Further to our recommendation in the last UPR-cycle, we regret the lack of progress when it comes to the effective protection of LGBTI persons. We are also concerned about the restrictive effects of the Law on Countering Extremist Activities and the new Criminal Code on the freedom of expression.

The Netherlands **recommends** Kyrgyzstan to:

1. Adopt and implement legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
2. Avoid any undue restrictions on the freedom of expression by ensuring that the Criminal Code is in full compliance with the ICCPR.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.