**Statement by H.E. Pendapala A. Naanda, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue on the Universal Periodic Review of Armenia, 23 January 2020**

1. **Thank you, Madam President,**
2. Namibia warmly welcomes the delegation of Armenia and thank them for their commitment and participation in the UPR process.
   1. Namibia commends Armenia for the positive human rights impact measures taken during the period under review. We are particularly pleased to note that Armenia is a State Party to 8 of the 9 core international human rights treaties and welcome the recent signature to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishment of the death penalty.
   2. There, however, remain concerns regarding the independence and professionalism of the Judicial branch of Government. We, therefore, make the following two recommendations for consideration by Armenia:
   3. Take effective measures to protect the independence and integrity of the judicial branch of government; and
   4. Take measures to ensure non-interference in the affairs of the Judiciary by Members of the Executive.

7. We wish the delegation of Armenia a successful review.

1. **I thank you, Madam President.**