**Universal Periodic Review 36 – Andorra**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 5 November 2020**

Madam President,

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

We welcome the fact that the draft ‘Law of Family’ includes the proposal to increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years. We commend Andorra for developing the National Equality Plan aimed at achieving gender equality.

There remain however concerns about incidents of gender and sexual based violence, and reprisals and intimidation for those who defend fundamental freedoms. The case of Vanessa Mendoza Cortes -who is facing a prison sentence for a report she presented last year to the CEDAW Committee - is particularly worrisome.

For that reason, the Netherlands **recommends** Andorra to:

1. Stop the judicial harassment, the reprisals and intimidation against human rights defenders in relation to the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms and engagement with the UN;
2. And to decriminalize abortion by removing abortion from the criminal code article 108.

The Netherlands wishes Andorra success with the implementation of the recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Madam President.