**Universal Periodic Review 36 – Marshall Islands**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 9 November 2020**

Madam President,

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

The Netherlands commends the government of the Marshall Islands for passing the ‘*Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act’* in its Parliament and for approving the ‘*National Gender Mainstreaming Policy’*.

However, important challenges remain and the Netherlands remains concerned about the high level of domestic, sexual and gender based violence in the Marshall Islands.

The Netherlands **recommends** Marshall Islands to:

1. Develop and pass domestic legislation on the implementation of CEDAW, especially in the field of equal participation of women in public and political life.
2. Improve enforcement of the ‘Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act’, by investing in training for local and national authorities to assist victims of domestic violence and by increasing the awareness and understanding of the law in the community.

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

Thank you, Madam President.