**Universal Periodic Review 36 – Panama**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands – 3 November 2020**

Thank you Madame President,

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

The Netherlands commends Panama for recent efforts undertaken to eliminate inequality. In particular, the Netherlands welcomes the establishment of the National Council of Gender Parity and the adoption of the anti-discrimination law in 2018.

Yet, implementation challenges remain. Especially with regards to the fair and just application of human rights protection mechanisms for individuals. Also, the persistent discrimination against LGBTI persons continues to raise concerns. It is regrettable that Law 7 against discrimination does not include the initial provisions against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Netherlands recommends Panama to:

1. Adopt comprehensive mechanisms, including a monitoring process, to ensure the full implementation of Law 7, and explicitly extend the law on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, to prevent discrimination against LGBTI individuals.
2. Strengthen the role of the National Institute for Women (INAMU) with sufficient financing, and adopt legislation that prevents impunity for violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual abuse.

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

Thank you, Madame President.