**Statement of the Netherlands during Consultation on Human Rights in the HIV response.**

**13 February** - **Panel 4: Delivering on the leave no one behind promise: addressing stigma, discrimination, violence and abuse.**

Dear panel, distinguished delegates,

The Netherlands supports wholeheartedly the plea of the speakers of this panel, calling for an end to stigma and discrimination of key populations, people whose human rights are often denied and who are vulnerable for HIV because of their age, profession, or sexual orientation.

The Netherlands has a well-functioning health system that is accessible to all, without any exception. The legal system does not discriminate against women, sex workers, MSM or gender identity.

Appropriate, affordable and sensitized healthcare is at the forefront of an effective response. The Netherlands therefore prioritizes the meaningful participation of these populations in the design, implementation and evaluation of the HIV response

But we are not there yet, HIV/AIDS is a global problem, that concerns all countries – including the Netherlands. Though the Netherlands has reached UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals, it is estimated that of the 23.000 people that live with HIV, 10% does not know their status. So more remains to be done to reach those still undetected, the ones who are left behind. Because AIDS has not ended. And discrimination has not ended either. Therefore, we need to continue providing information, education and communication. Today, and tomorrow, on a continuous basis.

This consultation allies nicely with the AIDS 2018 conference held in Amsterdam last year, with the theme “Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges”. Where the Dutch minister of foreign affairs reiterated then that the science to prevent new infections exists. Now all we need is the political will.

Now, more than ever, we need people, politics and power to come together to deliver a more just and inclusive response. We need to break the barriers, and start building bridges. The Netherlands hopes this consultation will continue to push the global agenda to combat HIV/AIDS and reiterates its support for this issue.