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UPR: Armenia
ILGA-Europe and COC Netherlands
United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva. 22nd September 2010

Presented by Björn van Roozendaal

Mr. President, distinguished members of the delegation,

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of the COC Netherlands and ILGA-Europe. During the UPR process of Armenia, stakeholders submitted reports recommending that Armenia address discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, implement sensitivity and awareness raising programmes on these grounds, and apply the Yogyakarta Principles. These recommendations are consistent with Armenia's commitment to equality and non-discrimination expressed in the Working Group report.

We commend Armenia's support for the UN General Assembly statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, which was delivered in December 2008, as well we commend Armenia for supporting the Committee of Ministers Recommendations of the Council of Europe on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, adopted earlier this year.

We appreciate the government of Armenia's engagement and therefore urge the government to ensure compliance with international standards by:

- Providing public education and awareness programs in relation to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as that sensitivity training be provided to police, judicial and other authorities to promote respect for all persons, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Applying the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* as a guide to assist policy-making in this area.

Thank you Mr. President.