

**Joint Statement by Federative van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit-COC
Nederland and International Lesbian and Gay Association**

UPR Cambodia

26th session of the Human Rights Council
June 2014

- delivered by Alberto Ulises Quero García

Thank you Mr. President,

This statement is also made on behalf of a coalition of Cambodian NGOs who work on the subject of human rights and sexual orientation and gender identity.

We welcome the Cambodian government's willingness to engage in the UPR process. We particularly want to thank the government for accepting the recommendation to continue to combat discrimination suffered by the children of marginalized and vulnerable groups and eradicate gender-based stereotypes (Colombia), as well the recommendation to implement all measures, including national awareness-raising campaigns, and efforts aimed at amending or eliminating patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes discriminating against women, including those based on the Chbab Srey and Chbab Pros (it is code of conduct to manage behavior and social behavior or Cambodian men and women) (Uruguay).

We would like to emphasize that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people are part of such vulnerable groups, and continue to struggle for equality and respect. LGBTI people in Cambodia are subject to discrimination, abuse, and violence or state sanctions as a part of their existence by the denial of their human rights. Attitudes and stereotypes that are based in patriarchal systems also contribute to stereotyping, stigma and intimidation targeting people based on their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

We call upon the Cambodian government to effectively implement these recommendations that address the discrimination that marginalized and vulnerable groups in Cambodia, including the LGBTI community, face. We stand ready to work with the government in implementing these recommendations.

At the same time, we express our concern that the government will not particularly address the human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. We therefore call on the government to take the following measures:

- **Immediately repeal laws that directly and indirectly criminalize sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. We call on the government to recognize LGBTI rights as human rights, and harmonize national laws, policies and practices with the Yogyakarta Principles.**
- **Establish national level mechanisms and review existing human rights instruments, and programs to include the promotion and protection of the equal rights of all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression**
- Engage with and consult the LGBTI community, and their families, groups and NGOs working on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression with regard to needs, obstacles for their active participation in society and next steps the government can take to overcome these obstacles.
- **Depathologize sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and promote the psychological wellbeing of LGBTI people in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO) standards, and ensure equal access to health and social services.**

Thank you, Mr. President.

