

**United Nations Human Right Council 12th Session
Geneva, September 2009.
UPR Uruguay – COC Netherlands**

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Distinguished President and members of the delegation,

Following recommendations made by the Czech Republic, which were supported by the government, to further strengthen the institutional anti-discrimination framework by providing awareness-raising campaigns and promoting tolerance and equality based on sex, gender and race, we recommend Uruguay to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for discrimination in the development of such framework.

In its national report, Uruguay noted a Bill which is pending adoption by Parliament, recognizing the right of all persons to the free development of their personality in accordance with their gender identity without requiring sex-reassignment surgery. We would appreciate hearing from the delegation about the status of this Bill, and would recommend its prompt adoption. Could the delegation also indicate its willingness to apply the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as a guide to assist in policy-making in this area?

We welcome the role Uruguay has played in bringing attention to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in international fora, and the measures adopted nationally, including its leadership in being the first country in Latin America to provide for same-sex civil unions. Last December, Uruguay endorsed the joint statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity delivered at the UN General Assembly, on behalf of 67 States from all regional groups. We would like to thank Uruguay for this endorsement, and for its continuing work in this area.

Thank you Mr President.