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The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and is pleased to submit herewith the Netherlands efforts to ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage in response to the call for submission for two reports on this issue ref :WHRGS/GA/RES/75167.

### **Domestic:**

Currently, a new law is being assessed by the Senate to end marital captivity. This new law allows for a judge to force a spouse to collaborate in divorce process, also in case of a religious marriage; Information materials have been developed in eight different languages about marriage, divorce and marital captivity in the Netherlands. Also support is provided to civil society organizations to develop an information campaign about various forms of harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage.

E-learning have been developed for professionals that are legally obliged to respond to signs of domestic violence or child abuse, including harmful practices, to enable them to better respond to signals of such practices. This will help to increase accountability, response and tailoring services to those affected by harmful practices.

In July 2021, a campaign was organized to prevent forced marriage and FGM/C, due to increased risk of such practices around the summer holidays. The campaign took place on social media, through advertisements at the Schiphol airport, and by spreading information materials to at risk families.

Subsidy is provided to the Federation of Somalian Associations in the Netherlands (FSAN) to train key persons about various forms of harmful practices, to reach out to parents and provide them with information in order to prevent harmful practices.

The Ministry of Health supports municipalities to develop a roadmap of actions that need to be taken and assistance that is needed in case of harmful practices

### **International:**

As part of the policy for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Netherlands invests in gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. This included programs to end harmful practices and in particular child, early and forced marriage. The Netherlands for example invests already since 2014 in the UNICEF/UNFPA Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. The current contribution amounts to EUR 30 million (2020-2023).

In addition, the Netherlands supports a strategic partnership of NGOs - Break Free!, with a budget of EUR 25 million (2021-2025). The NGOs in this partnership, Plan International, SRHR Africa Trust (SAT) and Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) aim "for adolescents to exercise their right to live free from teenage pregnancy and child marriage". The programs focuses on improving

access to safe and quality education for girls at risk of teenage pregnancy and child marriage; strengthening the role of duty bearers and government in developing, financing and implementing laws supporting the SRHR of young people; and improving access to quality SRHR information, education and services. The program is implemented in Niger, Ethiopia, Sudan, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Mali and Kenya.

Finally, the Netherlands is an active member of the core group for the Human Rights Council Resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage, and has taken the lead for this resolution in 2021, 2019 and 2017. The Netherlands aims for these resolutions to increase commitment to end CEFM, to improve understanding how to and in particular in a way that is supportive of women and girls who are subjected to CEFM, and finally to increase accountability, including through the human rights mechanisms.

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration

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