



## **HRC57 – Panel discussion on the implementation of States’ obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members**

### **BENELUX Statement**

**(25 September 2024)**

Madam Vice-President, Esteemed Panelists,

This statement is on behalf of the Benelux countries – Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. We align with the statement of the European Union.

We stress States’ obligations to protect all families, and all individuals within them in all their diversity, fully reflective of established human rights standards in relation to the human rights of women, gender equality, and the rights of the child.

Across the globe, the notion of family has diversified and evolved over time. The various treaties that have cemented gender equality are a shared commitment for all Member States. However, growing pushback against those very achievements, often in the name of so-called “traditional family values” and cultural diversity, are deeply concerning.

Narrow ideas of marriage exclude other forms of families, such as single-parent families, LGBTQI+ couples and families, child-headed families, families of divorced individuals, same-sex families, intergenerational families, among others. Women, girls, and LGBTQI+ individuals are entitled to their full human rights and to safety and security within their family, free from violence, abuse, or coercion. The recognition and fulfilment of their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is essential.

Finally, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and subsequent instruments have firmly established children’s agency and their right meaningfully to participate in decisions affecting them. Children are individual rights holders – let us not undermine this progress.

Thank you.

(231 words – 1m30s)