

Petition or Communication under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Sherrel Eldgel HANSEN vs. the Netherlands

EXHIBIT 2 (English translation):

Preamble and article 1 of the Act of 28 October 1954, containing the adoption of a Statute for the Kingdom of the Netherlands [commonly known as the 'Kingdom Charter']

Preamble

The Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten,

noting that in 1954 the Netherlands, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles declared of their own free will to adopt a new legal order within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in which each would take care of their own affairs and interests independently and in which they would jointly look after their common affairs and interests on the basis of equality and in which they would mutually assist each other and [to which end] they decided in common consultation to enact the Statute for the Kingdom of the Netherlands;

noting that the Statutory bond with Surinam was terminated as of 25 November 1975 by amendment of the Statute, enacted by Kingdom Act of 22 November 1975, *State Gazette* 617, *Publication Sheet Netherlands Antilles* 233;

noting that Aruba declared of its own free will to adopt this legal order as a country as of 1 January 1986 for a period of ten years and as of 1 January 1996 for an indefinite period; considering that Curaçao and St Maarten each declared of their own free will to adopt this legal order as a country;

have resolved in common consultation to reenact the Statute for the Kingdom as follows.

§ 1. General provisions

Article 1

1. The Kingdom consists of the [following] countries: the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten.

2. Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba each form an integral part of the Netherlands. For these islands regulations may be stipulated and other specific measures may be taken with a view to their economic and social circumstances, their great distance from the European part of the Netherlands, their insular nature, small surface-area and population, geographic circumstances, climate and other factors which render these islands fundamentally distinct from the European part of the Netherlands.