



(Please check against delivery)

12

**Statement by Malaysia  
Review of Netherlands  
13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council  
21 May – 4 June 2012**

---

Thank you Madam President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Netherlands led by H.E. \_\_\_\_\_ and his delegation. We thank the delegation for their comprehensive and detailed presentation.

Madam President,

2. We are encouraged to note that the Netherlands had taken a number of measures to address the issues on racism, discrimination and xenophobia towards the minority groups in the country. However, we observe with concern the incidence of racist and xenophobic speeches made by extremist but influential political figures and the manifestation of racism towards ethnic minorities including during local and national election campaigns.

3. We also observed that the long tradition of protecting freedom of expression and press freedom in the country has been used as an excuse to tolerate extremism and intolerance. We are concerned to note that political and public figures including the media that made inflammatory and discriminatory speeches against minority groups, in particular against Muslims, had not been censured or punished. In this regard, we wish to inquire if the Government has taken any specific measures to address this issue.

3. We also note the observation made by a CERD on social marginalisation and discrimination faced by ethnic minorities, in particular the Roma and the Sinti communities in the areas of education, health and housing.

Madam President,

4. My delegation also wishes to propose the following three recommendations for the consideration of Netherlands:

- 4.1 To take more serious measures to prevent and suppress manifestation of racism, xenophobia and intolerance against minority groups in the country, in particular the Muslims;
- 4.2 To ensure that the freedom of expression, press freedom and internet freedom will not resulted in racism, intolerance and hatred against minority groups; and
- 4.3 To expedite the establishment and operationalization of the Netherland's national Institute for Human Rights which fully complied with the Paris Principle.

I thank you, Madam President.

**GENEVA**

**31 May 2012**