

71

UPR Tunisia

Intervention by the Netherlands

His Excellency, Mr. Roderick van Schreven

Permanent Representative

Madame President,

*Minister Samia Dilaou,  
Minister for human rights  
and  
Transition  
Justice*

The Netherlands would like to thank the Honourable Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, for his introduction of Tunisia's national report before the Human Rights Council. We recognise the challenging times Tunisia recently faced and we warmly welcome all the steps Tunisia has taken towards a full democracy. We therefore applaud the new government of Tunisia for being with us today at the Human Rights Council and thereby demonstrating their full commitment to human rights.

Madame President,

The Netherlands commends all the efforts made by the Tunisian government to respect gender equality. In this light, we were pleased to note that Tunisia withdrew their specific reservations to CEDAW. In order to provide for full equality before the law, the Netherlands recommends that women rights will be included in the new constitution.

In relation to the freedom of expression and the press, my delegation commends the Tunisian government for its commitment to the freedom of expression. Especially regarding the freedom of the press and media. We took note of the different press laws developed by the authorities after the revolution. However, we received reports that in recent trials

legislation restricting freedom of expression has been applied. The Netherlands recommends that the Tunisian government also includes freedom of expression, press freedom and access to information in the Constitution.

Thank you, Madame President.