**Universal Periodic Review 14 – Gabon**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Le gouvernement des Pays-Bas aimerait à remercier le gouvernement du Gabon pour l’excellente contribution et leur réponse aux recommendations de la première session d’EPU dans son rapport national.

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to underline the importance of the abolition of the death penalty, and commends the government of Gabon on the abolition in 2010.

Although the government of Gabon has made a lot of progress in many fields since their last review in 2008, national challenges do remain.

Trafficking of persons remains a major threat to women and children all over the world. In Gabon, mechanisms, policies and laws to prevent and combat trafficking do exist, both at the national and provincial levels. There is a national committee to combat trafficking, there are provincial committees and police services specialized in protection of victims. Still, legislation is not regularly enforced and coordination has proven to be insufficient. Improvements in the field of trafficking policies need to be made. This has also been noted by the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, when she visited the country in 2012. She stressed this trend and the general lack of knowledge and awareness of this issue.

The Netherlands therefore recommends the government of Gabon to improve enforcement and coordination of national legislation and policies on the trafficking of persons, especially women and children, and to raise the awareness on this issue amongst the public.

Thank you, Madam President.