**Universal Periodic Review 14 – Ghana**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to thank mr/mrs (?) for his/her presentation here today. This presentation, together with the national report, provide thorough insight in the contemporary human rights situation in Ghana. The Netherlands compliments Ghana with the progress that has been made in many different areas of human rights protection within the country since the last review in 2008. Although progress has been made, human rights challenges within the country do remain. One of the subjects recommended by the Netherlands in this last session was the recommendation to ratify OP-CAT, after signing it in 2006. The Netherlands took note of the reference in the national report and we look forward to the final ratification of the protocol. We hope national legislation will soon be in line with the ensuing obligations.

The Netherlands further notes that in February 2012 President Mills has emphasized that “Nobody can say in Ghana we discriminate against homosexuality, there is no witch-hunting on homosexuality”. In this spirit we recommend Ghana to consider the report of the High Commissioner on sexual orientation and gender identity and determine which of the recommendations can be taken into account in the further detailing government policies.

The Netherlands welcomes the effort of the government of Ghana to extend access to justice and to inform the population on this particular subject. The national report indicates that there is an ongoing research project on the knowledge of the population of their right to access to justice. The Netherlands welcomes a swift completion and follow-up of this report and recommends the government of Ghana to report upon this subject back to this council.

Thank you, Madam President.