**Universal Periodic Review 14 – Korea**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the government of the Republic of Korea for its extensive national report clarifying to a great extent the human rights situation within the country. The Netherlands has submitted a written question in advance on the participation of single mothers in the workplace, and acknowledges the response provided at today’s session.

We commend the efforts of the government to integrate a human rights perspective in its policies, as described in the national report. Also, by the suspension of the death penalty already in 1998, complete abolition has come within reach. Hopefully, The Republic of Korea will soon take the final step in this process and completely abolish the death penalty.

Additionally, the Netherlands has two recommendations to the Republic of Korea:

Firstly, as trafficking in persons remains an important issue throughout the world, an issue targeting especially vulnerable women, the Netherlands recommends the Republic of Korea to ratify the Palermo protocol on the prevention of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Finally, the Netherlands noted the concerns expressed by the CEDAW committee on the disadvantages faced by women in the employment sector and the concerns from the CESCR on sexual harassment in the workplace. The Netherlands therefore recommends the implementation of legislation criminalizing sexual harassment in the workplace, and the setting up of mechanisms to monitor the implementation of this legislation.

Thank you, Madam President.