**Universal Periodic Review 14 – Ukraine**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the minister of (?) for his/her elaboration on the human rights situation in Ukraine, and the response provided to the questions the Netherlands has submitted in advance.

We observe that Ukraine has signed but not yet ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. We welcome ratification so as to enable the convention to enter into force.

On October 2nd, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted draft law #8711, prompting crucial criticism from Human Rights Defenders, LGBT organizations and from the International Community. The Netherlands welcomes the letter of Mrs. Lutkovska, Ombudsman, urging the parliament to recall this law, as it may lead to excessive restrictions of human rights obligations such as the right to freedom of expression. We recommend that any (draft) law that infringes fundamental Human Rights and violates commitments of Ukraine to International Human Rights Law like ECHR and ICCPR be recalled.

Noting the concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, the Netherlands recommends the government of Ukraine to ensure non-selective prosecutions on its territory and to ensure a fair trial for persons being prosecuted, in conformity with the standards as under Article 14 ICCPR including the right to appeal laid down in paragraph 5.

Thank you Madam President.