**Universal Periodic Review 14 – Zambia**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the Honourable Mr. (?), for his introduction, explaining to a great extent, together with the Zambian national report, the human rights situation in Zambia. The Netherlands was pleased to hear about the progress Zambia has made concerning some of the issues raised during the last UPR Review. The Netherlands attaches great importance to the follow-up to recommendations within the UPR mechanism and would be interested to see what the Zambian government has done on some of these issues, for example the developments on the issues of assistance and prevention of street children, such as the establishment of special centers for street children, as this formed part of the Dutch recommendations in 2008.

The Netherlands regretted the fact that Zambia rejected its recommendations regarding LGBT-rights in 2008. For The Netherlands, sufficient respect and protection of LGBT-rights still forms an essential element of any national human rights policy. The Netherlands was pleased to see that the Zambian National Aids Council seemed to agree with this point of view as it recommended that more research into MSM is needed in order to adequately formulate national policies. The Netherlands would thus recommend the government of Zambia to follow up on the recommendations by its National Aids Council, thus to include MSM(\*) in its HIV/Aids policies.

Thank you, Madam President.

*(\*) men having seks with men*