**Universal Periodic Review 16 – Burkina Faso**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the government of Burkina Faso for its national report and the detailed explanation of the national human rights situation in Burkina Faso by Mr/Ms……………….. here today.

The Netherlands compliments Burkina Faso on its efforts to improve women’s rights. With a view to tackling FGM, the government has set up a national council and engaged in regional talks to stop cross-border female circumcision. However, FGM is still widespread and we recommend that Burkina Faso continue its efforts to eradicate the practice by, for example, looking at the lessons learned by other countries in the region that are dealing with this issue.

We are also pleased to see that Burkina Faso has adopted the recommendations regarding children’s rights made during the 2009 UPR. Several programmes have been implemented, including those to combat trafficking in children. New legal instruments have, however, not always led to improvements on the ground. We therefore recommend that Burkina Faso continue its efforts to stop child labour, particularly in the mining sector.

Thank you, Mr. President.