**Universal Periodic Review 16 – Turkmenistan**

**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

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

The Netherlands notes the recent release of the human rights defenders Annakurban Amanklychev and Saparurdy Khajiev, but remains concerned about the number of human rights defenders still detained.

We welcome the fact that the ICRC has been granted access to a number of prison facilities. However, access is still restricted to a small number of facilities. The Netherlands therefore recommends that Turkmenistan grant full access to all prison facilities in the country to representatives of the ICRC and other international treaty bodies, such as the Special Rapporteurs on torture, and human rights defenders, and the Working Group on arbitrary detention in accordance with their requests.

Although we welcome the legal and policy reforms achieved on the position of women since the previous UPR, domestic violence against women, including marital rape, remains a matter of great concern. Even in the absence of specific legislation on this subject, such violence is prohibited by law. The Netherlands recommends that Turkmenistan find ways to overcome the culture of silence and impunity surrounding domestic violence against women, including marital rape, to provide all necessary protection and assistance to victims, to enforce applicable legislation against perpetrators, and to draft specific legislation dealing with these issues.

Thank you, Mr. President.