**Universal Periodic Review 17 – Central African Republic**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands compliments the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic on its willingness to address the human rights situation in the country, and on its engagement with the UN Human Rights Council. We welcome that the transitional authorities have proposed the establishment of an Independent Expert. We remain concerned about the continuing human rights abuses, especially sexual violence against women and the lack of access to humanitarian assistance. We encourage the transitional authorities to restore peace and security as well as the rule of law and to cooperate with peacekeeping forces in this regard.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends:

1. To make sufficient judicial staff and facilities available to restore the rule of law and to conduct screening of soldiers and police officers reporting back for duty to ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are excluded from further service and face trial in due process.
2. To establish training and awareness mechanisms to combat sexual violence against women, and fight the culture of denial and stigma so that women may seek medical care and establish judicial complaints against perpetrators.

I thank you, Mr. President.