**Universal Periodic Review 17 – Chad**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands compliments Chad on its efforts to improve women’s rights. The government has started a national campaign for the period of 2009-2015 to combat violence against women and has established a national strategy to combat gender violence (SNVBG). However, violence against women remains widespread.

Mr. President,

We are pleased to see that efforts are undertaken to guarantee the safety of human rights defenders, although many still remain fearful of aggressive action from security forces.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends:

1. to continue the eradication of the practice of FGM and enforce the present legislation to combat rape and other forms of violence against women, including against female refugees and IDPs.
2. to continue efforts to guarantee the safety of human rights defenders from arbitrary arrests and intimidation.

I thank you, Mr. President.