**Universal Periodic Review – Mexico**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands compliments Mexico on improvements in the institutional and legal framework on Human Rights, in particular:

* the establishment of the *Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists*.
* establishing that cases of grave crimes against freedom of expression can be brought into the jurisdiction of the *Office of the Special Prosecutor for Attention to Crimes against Freedom of Expression*.
* the creation of the *Criminal Investigation Protocol for Feminicide* with a gender perspective and the accompanying Technical Committee.

However, there are still concerns about the continuing high number of violence against and intimidation of journalists, human rights defenders and women. Furthermore, access to safe abortion is still insufficient, even for survivors of rape.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends Mexico:

1. to strengthen both the *Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders* *and Journalists* as well as the *Office of the Special Prosecutor for Attention to Crimes against Freedom of Expression (FEADLE).*
2. to strengthen sexual and reproductive health services to ensure that women who qualify for legal abortion services are able to access safe, timely, quality and free services in all Mexican states.

We thank you, Mr. President.