**Universal Periodic Review 17 – Nigeria**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Madam Vice-President,

The Netherlands compliments Nigeria on its efforts to prohibit all forms of violence against women and to prevent illegal trafficking of women and girls. We acknowledge the efforts to combat the use of FGM, particularly steps undertaken by the federal government to engage traditional and religious leaders in the eradication of this practice from local communities. Notwithstanding these efforts, FGM is still widespread in your country.

As to the prevention of human trafficking, the Netherlands is pleased to see that the Nigerian government has established a National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. However, we note that the establishment of new national bodies has not always led to improvements on the ground.

Madam Vice-President,

The Netherlands therefore recommends:

1. To continue its efforts to eradicate the practice of Female Genital Mutilation by, for example, taking into account the lessons learned by other countries in the region that deal with Female Genital Mutilation.
2. To continue its efforts to effectively prevent human trafficking and reinforce law enforcement and training of police.

I thank you, Madam Vice-President.