**Universal Periodic Review 17 – Saudi Arabia**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands notes with interest developments in the field of women’s rights in Saudi Arabia, such as the appointment of 30 women to the Consultative Council by His Highness King Abdullah. Also, each year more Saudi women travel to study abroad, including at Dutch universities. This being said, the continuing lack of many rights for women remains an important concern.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Saudi Arabia:

1. to engage in a structural human rights dialogue with the EU at the political and technical level;

2. to enhance legislative reforms, amongst others by taking measures to

ensure in the short term, as well as legally and in practice, the registration of fully independent human rights NGO’s.

3. to provide maximum judicial transparency, for example by allowing officials of third countries to attend public trials at criminal and security courts.

I thank you, Mr. President.