

**Universal Periodic Review 19 - Cote d'Ivoire  
Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands commends the Ivorian authorities for undertaking steps for the investigation and prosecution of offences against human rights defenders and journalists, both at the national and international level. Furthermore, we welcome the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the bill providing protection to human rights defenders. The Netherlands also welcomes the ratification in 2013 of the Rome Statute to the ICC.

While recognizing efforts undertaken to abolish discrimination of women and improve their status, we are concerned about the current status of Act No. 2013-33 of January 2013. Full implementation of this Act, and transparency therein, are essential steps towards the improvement of the position of Ivorian women.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of The Netherlands recommends the Government of Cote d'Ivoire:

- To take further measures to improve transparency and clarification on its policies and measures to promote gender equality, especially with regard to the implementation of Act No. 2013-33.
- To take further steps to prevent discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation and to raise awareness on its consequences.

Thank you Mr. President