**Universal Periodic Review 19 – Ethiopia**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands commends Ethiopia on its National Human Rights Action Plan. Human rights are indispensable in any strategy for inclusive and sustainable growth. Free and fair elections in 2015 will be of utmost importance to uphold progress made so far.

We welcome possible reclassification of 'administrative costs' as defined in the Charities and Societies Proclamation (CSP). Ethiopian civil society should be allowed to complement government programs, including those on harmful practices against women and girls. We are deeply concerned about the arrest and sentencing of journalists and members of opposition groups.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Ethiopia:

\* to amend and clearly redefine provisions in the Charities and Societies Proclamation (CSP) and the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation (ATP) in order to lift restrictions on the rights of freedom of association and freedom of expression.

\* to grant full access to Special Rapporteurs and Special Procedures Mandate holders to visit the country, notably the Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Education, the Right to Food and Violence against Women.

I thank you.