**Universal Periodic Review - Iran**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank [ ] of Iran for his/her introduction of the national report on the human rights situation. The Netherlands welcomes the pledges made by the Government and the President of Iran to improve the human rights situation in the country. However, despite the announcements, considerable changes and improvement on the ground are lacking. The Netherlands firmly opposes the death penalty. The number of executions that took place this year in Iran is alarming and unacceptable. Some of these executions even included minors.

With a view to improving the human rights situation in Iran, The Netherlands **recommends** the Government of Iran to guarantee freedom of speech and eliminate restrictions to the free flow of information, including through the internet and stop arrests, prosecution and sanction of individuals for expressing views and opinions.

Secondly, The Netherlands **recommends** the Government of Iran to ensure that religious, ethnic and sexual minorities are able to exercise their rights and freedoms, as guaranteed by the Constitution, and eliminate all restrictions faced by these minorities in the enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.