**Universal Periodic Review 22 – Honduras**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the government of Honduras for its report [and for addressing our advance questions].

We have noted with great appreciation that Honduras has recently ratified the inter-American Protocol to Abolish the Death Penalty. The Netherlands welcomes the strengthening of the Judiciary’s gender unit and the incorporation of the offense of Femicide in the Criminal Code as well as the Bill on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials.

1. The Netherlands recommends the government of Honduras to adopt laws and policies protecting human rights defenders and journalists, involve civil society in this process as well as making available sufficient funding for human and institutional implementing capacity.

2. The Netherlands recommends the Government of Honduras to develop a national action plan, to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including specific actions to strengthen the implementation of ILO convention nr. 169.

We make these recommendations because we remain concerned about the failure of the authorities to exercise due diligence in investigating, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence against certain groups. This has led to an environment in which vulnerable groups are victims of threats, violence and sometimes even murder. The growing number of social conflicts in regard to mining or hydro-electrical projects is worrying, especially given that violence is often perpetrated by private security firms or armed forces.

We emphasize that it is important that citizens can contribute to the UPR-process, notwithstanding the official statement by the Government of April 7.

Thank you Mr. President