**UPR22 Liberia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks Liberia for its report.

We wish to commend the government of Liberia for its handling of the Ebola outbreak. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families. We count on the government of Liberia to ensure that survivors of the Ebola outbreak can peacefully return to their villages without being stigmatized.

We noted with appreciation the government’s efforts to strengthen women’s rights and end violence against women, notably the implementation of a National Action Plan to implement Resolution 1325 and the drafting of a Domestic Violence Law.

We remain concerned however about the increasingly limited space for civil society.

1. The Netherlands therefore recommends Liberia to bring its legal and policy framework in line with its international obligations, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, by repealing all laws and policies that restrict the rights and activities of human rights defenders, including defamation and libel laws.

2. The Netherlands also recommends Liberia to further empower its Special Court on Rape and Other Forms of Violence, to enforce the laws against Female Genital Mutilation and to increase its efforts to create national public awareness programs about Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

Thank you Mr. President