**Universal Periodic Review 23 – Georgia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank Georgia for its comprehensive report [and for addressing our advance questions].

We commend Georgia for the legislative reforms brought into force since the last UPR, such as the adoption of the antidiscrimination law and the juvenile criminal justice code. We note with appreciation the adoption of Georgia’s Human Rights Strategy and Action plan, as well as the establishment of the Inter-Agency Council, and specifically commend Georgia’s intention to maintain an active engagement with civil society in this regard. Also, we welcome the progress on the circumstances in detention facilities. At the same time, we note that challenges remain, for example in the fields of women’s rights, the rule of law and the conduct of law enforcement officials.

Mr. President, we offer the following recommendations:

1. Firstly, regarding the *implementation* of its antidiscrimination legislation, the Netherlands recommends that Georgia includes effective measures that strengthen religious tolerance, gender equality, equal rights for ethnic minorities, women and LGTBI persons, as to increase tolerance and social inclusion in Georgian society.
2. Secondly, the Netherlands recommends that Georgia takes effective and coordinated measures on the issue of violence against women and domestic violence, including *ratification* of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Finally, the Netherlands would like to express its appreciation for the process of domestic reforms in Georgia. Upholding international standards and the rule of law is essential. The Netherlands would like to take this opportunity to encourage Georgia to continue the reforms.

Thank you, Mr. President.