**Universal Periodic Review 23 – Lebanon**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

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

We commend Lebanon for the legislative reform brought into force since the last UPR, such as adoption of the law concerning domestic violence.

1. Regarding torture, the Netherlands recommends that Lebanon introduces national legislation that criminalizes all forms of torture and ill treatment, that Lebanon prosecutes perpetrators of torture, and imposes judicial sentences that correspond to the gravity of torture crimes committed.
2. Also, we recommend that Lebanon passes laws that aim at ensuring equal treatment of women, in issues related to child custody, inheritance and divorce.

The Netherlands would like to express its regret about the political and constitutional void Lebanon continues to find itself in, as it constitutes a deterioration of the democratic process and deprives the Lebanese from their right to vote. Therefore the Netherlands would like to take this opportunity to encourage Lebanon to elect a president and a parliament without further delay.

Finally, the Netherlands would like to express sincere appreciation for the immense efforts, characterised by exceptional hospitality, made by Lebanon in response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Thank you, Mr. President.