**Universal Periodic Review 23 – Nauru**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the Republic of Nauru for its report and commends Nauru for steps taken to strengthen their legal national human rights framework, most notably toward the ratification of international human rights treaties.

We recommend the government of Nauru:

1. to abide by its international human rights obligations and to uphold freedom of the press, freedom of information and freedom of speech.
2. to commit to upholding the rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

We make these recommendations because we have concerns about the legal protection of human rights in Nauru, about the level of violence against women and children, and about the apparent lack of independence of the judiciary.

The recent restrictions to freedom of expression, access to internet and social media as well as the arrest of politicians and the de facto ban on access for foreign journalists are also reasons for concern for the Netherlands.

Thank you, Mr. President.