**Universal Periodic Review 23 – Oman**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

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

We valued the visit of the National Human Rights Commission to the Netherlands in the beginning of this year and the open and frank discussions that took place. We commend Oman for being the first country in the region to invite the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

The Netherlands recommends Oman:

1. To implement the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.
2. To withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as supported by Oman during its first cycle Universal Periodic Review.

Following his visit to Oman, UN Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai emphasised that Oman has successfully modernised.

In light of this modernisation, the Netherlands invites Oman to continue on the path of progress and modernization, and to grant its citizens the full enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression.

Thank you, Mr. President.