

## **Universal Periodic Review 25 – Papua New Guinea**

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### **Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the government of Papua New Guinea for its comprehensive report.

We highly appreciate that the Mid-Term Development Plan 2011-2015, extended until 2017, has prioritized a number of key sectors, including primary and secondary education, access to water, and sanitation, and that the PNG Parliament has repealed the Sorcery Act.

The Netherlands recommends the government of Papua New Guinea to:

1. Take action to set in place a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.
2. Repeal remaining laws and regulations that discriminate against women and girls or amend them in line with international human rights standards.

The government of Papua New Guinea accepted to set up a National Human Rights Institution in 2011. In our own experience such an institution is essential in providing advice in the design and implementation of laws and policies based on human rights.

For a just society based on equality and non-discrimination equal treatment and opportunities for women and girls are essential. Through amendment of legislation the government can give off a clear signal in this regard. With its second recommendation the Netherlands joins earlier recommendations made by the CEDAW Committee [2010].

Thank you Mr. President