**UPR 25 - Kingdom of Swaziland**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to thank the Kingdom of Swaziland for its second national report.

The Netherlands commends the Kingdom of Swaziland on showing the strong commitment to ending the HIV-AIDS epidemic. In addition, The Netherlands welcomes the commendable commitments made during its last Universal Periodic Review in 2011.

Despite these positive commitments, the Netherlands is concerned that no concrete and sufficient steps have been taken to meaningfully implement the accepted recommendations relating to civil society space and the prosecution of human rights violations.

The Netherlands therefore recommends the Kingdom of Swaziland:

1. To ensure unhindered enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, and an enabling environment, where members of civil society are not prohibited from exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, in accordance with the principles of democracy (this is also in line with international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the undertaking made in the 2011 UPR).

2. To accede to and align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC), including incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court, and investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts.

Thank you, Mr. President.