**Universal Periodic Review 25 –United Republic of Tanzania**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the United Republic of Tanzania for its comprehensive national report and for addressing our advance questions.

We welcome the commitment of the Government of Tanzania in promoting and protecting human rights. The Netherlands also commends the peaceful holding of the general elections. However, we are concerned about the recently passed media laws that infringe on the freedom of expression. We are also concerned about the lack of inclusive and legitimate democracy in Zanzibar.

The Netherlands recommends the United Republic of Tanzania:

1. To guarantee freedom of expression and association through amending the media laws (that is the Cybercrime Act, Statistics Act, both of 2015 and Newspaper Act of 1976) and to ensure a conducive environment for civil society organizations, human rights defenders and media to operate freely in accordance with the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

2. To play an active role to ensure inclusive and legitimate democracy in Zanzibar by supporting a reconciliation process in Zanzibar that leads to a truly representative Government of National Unity, as required by the Constitution of Zanzibar.

Thank you, Mr. President.