**Universal Periodic Review 26 – Haiti**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

Let me begin by offering my condolences to the Haitian delegation for the dreadful effects of hurricane Matthew on Haiti.

In addition, the Netherlands would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Firstly, the Netherlands recommends Haiti to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and take all appropriate legislative measures.
2. Secondly, we recommend Haiti to improve its citizen’s access to food by adopting a national strategy to protect its agriculture against the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

The Netherlands wishes to commend Haiti for ratifying the International Covenant on Social Economic and Cultural Rights. We also take note of the efforts by the government to give all its citizens access to food by 2025. However, we remain concerned that food insecurity and malnutrition is highly prevalent.

International support provided should be used to its full potential for the benefit of the civilian population, including the realisation of their right to food. A national strategy and programmes to support agricultural revitalization activities and facilitate the marketing of food products are important.

Lastly, the Netherlands remains concerned about widespread gender-based violence. We note that Haiti knows no specific legislation criminalizing rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, or other forms of violence suffered by women.

Thank you Mr. President.