**UPR 2016 – Republic of Zimbabwe**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the Republic of Zimbabwe for its national report. We welcome commitments made by Zimbabwe during the previous UPR review in 2011 and look forward to a fruitful discussion on progress made in their implementation.

We applaud Zimbabwe for adopting a new constitution in 2013 as it is founded on principles that include the rule of law and fundamental human rights.

The Netherlands recommends Zimbabwe to:

1. Review and align the laws of Zimbabwe to the 2013 constitution, including in relation to section 61 on freedom of expression and freedom of the media, and ensure their implementation.
2. Ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
3. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

The Netherlands deems the increase in the number of reported incidents infringing on the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in Chapter 4 of the 2013 Constitution worrisome. These incidents include restrictions on freedom of assembly and the right to peacefully demonstrate and petition. Media freedom and the freedom of information have come under pressure with the arbitrary arrest of journalists.

The Netherlands is also concerned about the delays in the alignment of domestic laws with international human rights instruments.

Thank you, Mr. President