**Universal Periodic Review session 27 – Ecuador**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks Ecuador for engaging with the UPR [and for addressing the advanced questions]. We welcome the efforts the government of Ecuador has made in actively engaging on the topic of business and human rights.

The Netherlands recommends Ecuador:

1. To guarantee the independence of the judiciary by reforming article 109 number 7 of the Organic Code of the Judiciary in order to clearly delimit, in accordance with international law, the figure of ‘’inexcusable error’’, which is now insufficiently safeguarded against misuse for targeting judges.

2. To develop and adopt a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in consultation with civil society organizations and affected communities, including measures on free prior and informed consent and access to remedy in line with international standards, with special attention to the position of human rights defenders and indigenous peoples living in isolation.

Mr. President,

The current state of the separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary branch, the space for civil society and the protection of civilians against business enterprises do not meet international standards in Ecuador. Improvements on those fundamental human rights issues should be a priority for the years to come. We trust the government of Ecuador will use the recommendations to strive for an improvement of the human rights situation.

Thank you, Mr President.