**Universal Periodic Review 27– South Africa**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands welcomes the delegation of South Africa to the UPR.

In line with our previous recommendations, the Netherlands offers the following recommendations:

1. To develop a comprehensive, multisectoral national strategic plan on gender-based violence.
2. To strengthen its system for monitoring, reporting and analysing crimes of violence and discrimination against individuals based on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr President, the Netherlands welcomes South Africa’s commitment to improve women’s rights but regrets that the *Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill* has not yet been enacted and that further development of a strategic national plan on gender-based violence has been suspended.

We appreciate South Africa’s progressive legislation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the government’s continued engagement with civil society. However, we note that violence against the LGBTI community continues to be a big issue and discrimination and prejudice is still present.

Thank you.