**Universal Periodic Review 44 – Colombia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands commends the Colombian Government for its efforts to consolidate peace in Colombia. we consider the full implementation of the Final Peace Agreement the most effective way to reach this goal.

Notwithstanding, the Government’s laudable efforts to improve the protection of human rights defenders and address root causes of attacks against them, we continue to be alarmed by persistent high levels of violence against HRDs.

The Netherlands, therefore, recommends:

1. To consider a reform of the national model of protection for human rights defenders, developed in collaboration with defenders and civil society, in order to strengthen prevention, collective protection and differentiated means of support for defenders, depending on their specific needs;

2. To support the autonomous and independent work of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and to create the necessary conditions to ensure that the system of restorative sanctions to be imposed contribute to restoring the rights of victims;

3. Step up efforts to guarantee the human rights of trans- and gender-diverse persons, such as the right to health, including through the adoption of medical guidelines and protocols to guarantee good-quality healthcare services and health-related information for trans and gender-diverse persons.

The Netherlands wishes Colombia every success with the implementation and follow-up of all accepted recommendations it receives during this fourth UPR cycle.

Thank you, President.