**Universal Periodic Review 43 – Viet Nam**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands commends the Vietnamese Government on the delivery of crucial services to the overwhelming majority of its population, such as access to education, health care, internet and electricity.

We are concerned about the shrinking civic space and the encroachment on fundamental freedoms.

The Netherlands recommends to:

1. Revise Articles 117 and 331 of the Penal Code to protect fundamental freedoms, such as the right to freedom of expression, including online and in digital spaces, and guarantee fair trials.

2. Ensure the effective and inclusive participation, free of any consequences, of socio-political organizations, NGOs and communities in policy making processes, at national, provincial and local level, including on environmental issues.

We wish Viet Nam a succesful review.

Thank you, President.