**Universal Periodic Review 47 – Albania**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

[Mr. President,]

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Republic of Albania for the presentation of its national report and for its efforts towards the implementation of the Netherlands’ 3rd cycle recommendations.

We further commend the Albanian Government for the adoption of a National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 last December. We note, however, that while the adoption of the National Action Plan is a good first step, the implementation is where true progress is made.

The Netherlands recommends Albania to:

1. Take effective measures to strengthen freedom of expression and independence of the media by ensuring a safe environment for investigative journalists, their protection from intimidation and attacks, as well as by improving their working conditions.

2. Take effective measures to ensure accountability for public officials and to combat corruption, including the proper implementation of Constitutional Court judgments.

The Netherlands wishes the Republic of Albania every success with the implementation and follow-up of all accepted recommendations.

Thank you, [Mr. President].