**Universal Periodic Review 47 – Costa Rica**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr President,

In a world where human rights, democracy and the rule of law are seriously under threat, Costa Rica sets a shining example in the region.

We applaud the government’s efforts to implement UPR recommendations from previous cycles and to include civil society in this process.

The Netherlands recommends Costa Rica to:

1. Continue to actively engage with and include civil society organizations in decision making processes, especially those representing persons in marginalized or vulnerable situations, and human rights defenders, including the most critical voices;
2. Address the adverse impact and threat organized crime has on youth and their trust in democratic institutions, and to invest in education, especially in the field of human rights and democracy.

The Netherlands wishes Costa Rica every success with the implementation and follow-up of all accepted recommendations.   
Thank you.