**Universal Periodic Review 48 – Iran**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Vice-President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Iran for the presentation of its report and commends its efforts to host the worlds’ largest refugee population.

However, we remain seriously concerned about the escalating number of executions, as well as the grave discrimination and persecution of women, girls, LGBTIQ+ persons, and ethnic and religious minorities, like the Baha’í. The practice of arbitrary detention for political gain also continues to be seriously concerning and a violation of international law.

Therefore, we recommend Iran to:

1. Impose a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition.

2. Immediately release all persons detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, including those advocating for the abolition of discrimination against women and girls, and all those further arbitrarily detained.

3. Repeal the provisions in the Islamic Penal Code that criminalize consensual same-sex activities between adults.

[We wish Iran success with the implementation and follow-up.]

Thank you.