

**Slovenia: 48th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands delivered by Ms. Lila Del Colle, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Slovenia for the presentation of its national report.

We applaud the Slovenia for strengthening its internal rule of law systems and for identifying this topic as one of the government’s top priorities. An essential pillar for nurturing durable rule of law reforms is a strong and autonomously functioning public media landscape.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends Slovenia to:

1.           continue fostering political independence of the public media in its various forms by providing structural financial support.

2.          continue strengthening journalistic professional standards to ensure the autonomous role of journalists.

The Netherlands appreciates the efforts made by Slovenia to further guarantee the right of citizens to information and freedom of expression, incl. by the improvements in the currently pending Media Bill.

We wish Slovenia every success with the implementation and follow-up of all accepted recommendations.

Thank you, Mr. President