**Universal Periodic Review 28 – The Republic of Korea**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Republic of Korea for its comprehensive report. We welcome steps taken since its last UPR in 2012, including measures to ensure the right to freedom of assembly as well as the training of police officers on human rights protection.

With a view to further improving the human rights situation the Netherlands:

* Recommends to abolish Article 92-6 of the Military Criminal Act12, which views consensual same-sex intimacy in the armed forces as a criminal offense, in order to comply with international human rights standards; and,
* Recommends to remove all penalties for women who seek abortion, and for doctors and other medical personnel involved in providing these services.

Earlier this year, the Committee against Torture reiterated that some persons arrested under the National Security Act had allegedly been subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as to coerced confessions. It is important that this Act is not misused to restrict the rights of human rights defenders.

The Netherlands looks forward to continuing it’s close cooperation with the Republic of Korea, also in the Human Rights Council.

Thank you.