**Universal Periodic Review – Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the Government of Zambia for its comprehensive report and commends Zambia for its active role, both at the domestic and multilateral level, to combat Child Early and Forced Marriage.

The Netherlands also commends the government of Zambia for the adoption of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework for 2017-2020. We however regret the fact that Zambia has not accepted any of the recommendations made related to legalizing same-sex relations or protecting the rights of LGBTI people in previous UPR cycles.

The Netherlands furthermore notes that the protection of journalists, human rights defenders and activists remains challenging.

The Netherlands also notes that despite the measures taken to protect human rights from business impacts, progress has been very slow.

1. The Netherlands therefore recommends that the Zambian government engages in consultations with the concerned communities and ensures their participation in the decision-making process affecting them, through their direct involvement in the formulation and implementation of mining projects.

2. We also recommend that the government of Zambia complies with its obligation under international law to guarantee that human rights defenders, journalists and activists can carry out their work independently and free from attacks, harassment or intimidation.

Thank you.