**Universal Periodic Review 37 – Myanmar**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 25 January 2021**

Madam President,

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

The Netherlands wishes to congratulate the people of Myanmar for exercising their hard-won right to vote on 8 November 2020 and welcomes any steps aimed at developing a collaborative approach with ethnic peoples and parties, provided that these contribute to building trust and address grievances.

The Netherlands remains concerned about the lack of unfettered and sustained humanitarian access throughout the country, including in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, and northern Shan States.

The Netherlands **recommends** Myanmar to:

1. Increase the transparency of domestic accountability processes and ensure full cooperation with international efforts towards accountability for international crimes.
2. Review and repeal or amend all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and ensure that journalists and human rights defenders can work freely and without fear for reprisals.

The Netherlands wishes Myanmar success with the implementation of all recommendations it receives during this UPR cycle.

Thank you, Madam President.