**Universal Periodic Review 38 – Somalia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** *– 6 mei*

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

The Netherlands welcomes the initial progress in identifying members for the Somalia National Human Rights Commission and encourages Somalia to finalize its establishment so as to ensure its swift operationalization.

The Netherlands remains concerned about the lack of Rule of Law, the structural human rights violations, including those committed by security forces; and the overall lack of accountability. The continuously further shrinking space for journalists and civil society organisations is alarming. We encourage Somalia to respect *universal* human rights, for all, including minorities.

The Netherlands **recommends** Somalia:

1. To finalize, in accordance with the provisional Constitution of Somalia, the establishment and operationalization of the Somalia National Human Rights Commission and ensure it is independent, effective and in full compliance with the Paris Principles;
2. To take all necessary steps to ensure that the newly established prosecutor for crimes against journalists carries out effective investigations into attacks against journalists, and to notify UNESCO on the status of the judicial inquiry into the killing of journalists.

The Netherlands wishes Somalia success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you.