**Universal Periodic Review 39 – Papua New Guinea**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Madam President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Government of Papua New Guinea for its comprehensive report and welcomes the progress made on preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence, including the establishment of the Interim Gender-Based Violence Secretariat that will hopefully help ensure accountability for survivors through a multi-sectoral approach.

We are however concerned that few perpetrators of violence against women and girls are brought to justice.

We also note that our previous recommendation regarding the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution that is compliant with the Paris Principle was adopted, but not yet implemented.

We therefore recommend the government:

1. to investigate all acts of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, domestic violence and sorcery related violence, and prosecute perpetrators, with a view to ensuring full accountability for victims;
2. to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), in repetition of the recommendation made in the last UPR cycle.

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

Thank you Madam President.