**Universal Periodic Review 39 – Tanzania**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends the Tanzanian Government on the adoption of the *National Action Plan on Violence against Women and Children (2017-2022)* and the recent appointments of women in high positions.

We are concerned by the fact that Tanzania has fallen 53 places on the 2020 World Press Freedom Index and **recommend** Tanzania:

1. To repeal or amend national legislation that restrict civil society like human rights defenders and journalists, from exercising their rights and fundamental freedoms without fear for scrutiny and reprisals, including the Cybercrime Act of 2015, the Statistics Act of 2015, and the Media Services Act of 2016 , so that it complies with international standards;

2. To strengthen the legal protection of individuals belonging to the most vulnerable groups, among which sexual minorities and women, and ensure prevention and investigation of all forms of violence, including domestic and sexual violence and female genital mutilation.

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