**Universal Periodic Review 40 – Haiti**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Government of Haiti for its comprehensive report and recognizes the challenges faced by Haiti due to its vulnerability to natural disasters.

We encourage the government of Haiti to continue efforts aimed at improving the overall human rights situation. We are concerned about the fact that violence against women and girls remains widespread and the participation of women in political life is low.

We also note that the general elections have been postponed indefinitely.

The Netherlands therefore recommends the government:

1. To take all necessary measures in the fight against gender-based violence, including by involving communities and by signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
2. To ensure that the judiciary is provided with adequate resources and able to operate free from political interference.

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

Thank you Madam President.