**Universal Periodic Review 40 – Syrian Arab Republic**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands commends civil society organizations, human rights defenders, the Commission of Inquiry, IIIM and others who work tirelessly to protect human rights for the citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic and to take steps to end impunity.

The Netherlands is alarmed by the ongoing human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law by the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Netherlands recommends the Syrian Arab Republic:

1. To stop bombing its own civilian population and social infrastructure, contrary to international humanitarian law;
2. Stop the sieges of Syrian cities and towns, including Idlib and Daraa, in breach of international humanitarian law. Humanitarian access must be immediately ensured to the Syrian people in need;
3. Release all those who are arbitrarily detained or forcibly disappeared and put an end to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment within its jurisdiction.

The Netherlands urges that the Syrian Arab Republic follows-up on all the recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr President.