**Universal Periodic Review 41 – Zimbabwe**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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

The Netherlands commends the Zimbabwean Government on providing vaccines free of charge to its whole population.

We are concerned about several planned legislative amendments that could curtail civic space, by restricting and criminalizing the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations. Furthermore, we note that Zimbabwe has not yet ratified the Convention against Torture and the Convention on Enforced Disappearance.

The Netherlands **recommends** Zimbabwe:

1. To protect and strengthen civic space in law and practice, including by rescinding the planned amendments to the Private Voluntary Organizations Act and the proposed enactment of the Patriotic Bill.

2. To fully implement the  recommendations from local, regional and international independent observer missions to the 2018 elections, in order to promote peaceful, free, fair and credible elections in 2023.

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