**Statement on the Adoption of the Kingdom of the Netherlands report at 41th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Delivered by Ambassador Lars Tummers, Deputy Permanent Representative**

**November 18, 2022 – Geneva, Switzerland**

Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, and members of the troika,

on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands I would like to begin by expressing our gratitude for the substantive interactive dialogue during our UPR session. As already expressed on Tuesday by the ministers from each of the four countries of our Kingdom, we very much appreciate the constructive engagement of the 100 Member States who contributed to our UPR, and the active participation of all delegations. We also welcome the open exchange of perspectives and the opportunity to learn from other Member States. Mr. President, the recommendations we received are timely and will certainly foster the further promotion of human rights within our countries.

We had the pleasure of examining the recommendations received together with the secretariat and the members of our troika: The Gambia, the United Arab Emirates and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Let me first and foremost express my profound thanks for your dedication and professionalism. We are aware of the great amount of work you have put into the preparation of the working group’s report, and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your valuable contributions.

Mr. President, as a member of the Human Rights Council, the Kingdom of the Netherlands remains strongly committed to promoting and protecting all human rights, both worldwide and within our own borders. The presence of ministers from all four countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands during the UPR session is a clear indication of this commitment.

We will carefully consider all of the 255 recommendations we received and will respond to them during the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council in March 2023. In light of our commitment to promoting and protecting all human rights, we have opted to postpone our response. We find it important to have done the proper consultations before determining our final position. First of all, we will examine the recommendations *within* the national administrations, in a manner appropriate to each of the four countries. Secondly, we will coordinate *between* the four countries of our Kingdom. And third and final, we will involve the national stakeholders, who have already made important contributions to our 4th UPR cycle. As also expressed on Tuesday by our Head of Delegation, Her Excellency Anna Richardson, Minister of Justice of Saint Maarten, a strong civil society is a key component of any healthy democracy. We look forward to discussing the UPR recommendations with them and taking their views into account with an open mindset.

Mr. President, the Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to reiterate its strong support and commitment to the UPR process. It provides a unique opportunity for reflecting on national challenges and achievements, as well as for promoting the continuous improvement of human rights across the world. Before I conclude, I would like to extend my gratitude to you, all Member States, the members of the troika, the secretariat, the conference services and the translators for your support in the process.

Thank you.

**[UPLOAD VERSION]**