**Universal Periodic Review 41– Tunisia**

***Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands***

Mr. President,

The Netherlands commends the Tunisian government for **safeguarding human rights in laws** such as the 2018 Law on Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

However, we note that **application is key**. Democratic oversight, freedom of association and expression, and access to justice are instruments **for people to demand their rights and freedoms**.

Therefore, the Netherlands **recommends** Tunisia:

1. To **put dignity of people at the centre of the justice sector**, by guaranteeing access to an independent civil justice, reinforcing application of Law 5 (2016), and abolishing practices like forced anal and virginity tests.

2. To **protect the right of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and the right to freedom of expression** by safeguarding Law 88 (2011) and reviewing Decree Law 54 (2022) with attention to principles of necessity and proportionality in the context of fighting terrorism and cybercrime.

Thank you.

[60 seconds]