**Universal Periodic Review 41 – Algeria**

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

Mr. President,

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

The Netherlands **commends** Algeria on its efforts regarding rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and the fight against human trafficking.

We share, however, the observation made earlier this year by a group of Special Procedure mandate-holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, that definitions in recent legislation on national security, such as in article 87bis of the Penal Code, are at odds with internationally agreed definitions.

The Netherlands would **welcome** any additional measures to further ensure the free exercise of the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression in new legislation and **recommends** Algeria to:

1. Apply pre-trial detention as an ‘exceptional’ measure as defined in the Algerian Constitution (art. 44);
2. Bring the legal framework on religious minority rights in line with Algeria’s international obligations on the right to freedom of religion or belief under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Thank you.