**Universal Periodic Review 43 – United Arab Emirates**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of the United Arab Emirates for its national report and commends the UAE Government for maintaining a positive record on freedom of religion and belief.

The Netherlands also welcomes the fact that the UAE strives for inclusivity at COP28 by welcoming all participants, including from civil society, for effective participation.

The Netherlands recommends the UAE to:

1. Release all prisoners who have completed their court-ordered sentences and are currently being held only under the “counselling” provision of the 2014 counterterrorism law, as well as to implement further measures to ensure protection against torture and ill-treatment in detention.
2. Continue to take steps to uphold freedom of expression by reviewing restrictive articles within its domestic legal framework.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes the UAE success with the follow-up of recommendations it receives during the fourth UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.