**Universal Periodic Review 43 – Israel**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Israel for its national report and commends Israel for its independent media and strong civil society, vital for Israel’s vibrant democracy. However, an increasing pressure on NGO’s and human rights defenders is concerning.

We acknowledge the 2021 financial incentive for social-economic development of Arab communities and encourage Israel to take further measures to reduce disparities. Basic human rights for all, including Palestinians in the occupied territories, is of the essence. Lastly, the Netherlands continues to raise the vulnerable position of children, specifically in detention.

We recommend Israel to:

1. Take all measures to ensure human rights for all citizens of Israel, as well as for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, and safeguard access to justice which is vital in upholding these rights.
2. Ensure that human rights defenders and NGOs are able to operate safely and freely, without undue restrictions.
3. Take all steps necessary to protect children, especially in Israeli detention, in line with international legal standards.

[We wish Israel success during this UPR cycle].

Thank you.