**Universal Periodic Review 29 – The State of Israel**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the State of Israel for its comprehensive report.

The Netherlands commends Israel for its strong and vibrant democracy, as well as its diverse civil society. The Netherlands is concerned, however, about increasing pressure on the space for independent human rights organisations, including the additional requirements imposed by the NGO Transparency law adopted in July 2016 on NGOs which receive more than 50% of their funding from foreign governments. This may negatively affect the essential work of human rights organisations.

The Netherlands further commends Israel for the reforms it has carried out to improve the treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli detention. Nevertheless, the Netherlands remains concerned that reforms have not been fully implemented in practice, and about continuing reports of ill treatment of Palestinian children during their arrest, transfer and interrogations.

The Netherlands recommends Israel to:

1. Step up efforts to fully protect and promote an enabling and safe environment conducive to the work of all independent human rights organisations,
2. Ensure that the treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli detention is fully in line with Israel’s commitments under international law.

In conclusion we would like to wish Israel every success in implementing the recommendations received during this UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr. President.