**Universal Periodic Review 29 – Romania**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Romania for its comprehensive report.

We welcome Romania’s ratification of the Istanbul Convention aimed at preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence by law no. 30/2016. We look forward to the prompt harmonization of Romanian national laws with the provisions of the Istanbul convention.

We do observe, however, that Romania is in the process of an extensive overhaul of its Justice Laws and Criminal Codes that may affect the rule of law and the human rights of all citizens in Romania.

The Netherlands therefore recommends Romania to :

1. Firstly, assure that the modifications to the Justice Laws and Criminal Codes do not impede on the human rights of its citizens and take into full consideration the relevant opinion of the Venice Commission.
2. And, secondly, to step up efforts to improve the position of Roma people in line with the EU framework on National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, for example in terms of ensuring access to education, appropriate housing and economic inclusion.

We wish Romania every success in this UPR review.

Thank you, Mr. President.