**Universal Periodic Review 29 – The Republic of Mali**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

(spreektijd 1:30)

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Republic of Mali for its comprehensive report and presentation here today.

We welcome the fact that the Malian government recently reformed its national human rights commission to operate fully independent and in compliance with international standards. However, we regret that no prosecution of human rights violators has occurred so far.

1. The Netherlands recommends Mali to address and improve the state of its prisons with a view to ensuring that prisoners are incarcerated in line with international human rights standards.
2. We also recommend that Mali strengthens mechanisms for accountability of the Malian Defense and Security Forces to act in line with international humanitarian law.

Both the state of prisons and actions of the defense and security forces constitute important possible catalysts of radicalization processes. Improving these two matters is of utter importance to prevent violent extremist groups from gaining yet more ground in an already vulnerable environment.

We wish Mali all the success in this UPR review.

Thank you, Mr. President.