**Universal Periodic Review 30 – Burkina Faso**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Burkina Faso for its report.

We welcome Burkina Faso’s efforts to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and welcome the adoption of a law on the protection of human rights defenders. Building on these positive steps, we encourage the government to implement this law, and more generally, to continue its efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders.

With a view to further improving the human rights situation, the Netherlands recommends Burkina Faso to:

* Firstly, undertake immediate and effective action to prevent all forms of torture and ill treatment and to ensure thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all acts of torture committed by government officials, with the aim to end impunity.
* Secondly, to fast track the implementation of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage for the period 2016-2025.

The Netherlands is concerned about instances of gender based violence and discrimination against women. We remain equally concerned about the allegations of torture.

We wish Burkina Faso all the success in its UPR review.

Thank you, Mr. President.