**Universal Periodic Review – Djibouti**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands (10 May)**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks Djibouti for its report prepared by an Interministerial committee.

We welcome the adoption of Act number 55 on violence against women focussing also on ending FGM. We also welcome the fact that Djibouti accepted technical assistance in the form of trainings from the OHCHR.

We regret reports of reprisals whereby a human rights defender who participated in this UPR process was detained and a passport was confiscated.

The Netherlands recommends Djibouti to:

1. Firstly, guarantee the right to participate in political and public affairs, including by removing the strict criteria members of political parties have to comply with as contained in article 4 of the Law on Political Parties; and
2. Secondly, to safeguard the freedom of press by ceasing the strict application of restrictions contained in articles 4, 14, 15, 17 and 47 of the Freedom of Communication Act and article 425 of the Penal Code and by creating an enabling environment for the creation of privately-owned media outlets.

We share the concerns of the Human Rights Committee related to the Freedom of Communication Act containing restrictive registration requirements for newspapers and press ownership.

We wish Djibouti all the success in this UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.