**Universal Periodic Review – Russian Federation**

**Intervention of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**(spreektijd 1 minuut)**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the Russian Federation for its report and for accepting previous UPR recommendations in the field of justice, civil society and freedom of the press.

However the Netherlands notes that offenses against journalists and human right defenders have serious negative implications for the development of society as a whole.

The Netherlands recognizes the need for specific measures to be taken to ensure tolerance towards the LGBTI community in Russia and to prevent violence and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Netherlands therefore recommends:

1. To take steps to effectively promote tolerance and prevent violence and discrimination on ground of sexual orientation and gender identity and to ensure effective investigation of acts of violence against LGBTI persons so as to hold those responsible to account. And,
2. To revise the so-called “foreign agent” law and to take all the necessary steps to ensure that civil society organizations, including media, can exercise their activities without fear of stigmatization or punishments by law.

Finally the Netherlands wishes the Russian Federation every success with the implementation, reporting and follow-up of all the UPR recommendations that it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you.