**Universal Periodic Review 31 – China - 6 November 2018**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of China for the presentation of its national report. We note that previous recommendations from the Netherlands have not yet been implemented [but thank China for answering our advance questions - PM].

The Netherlands commends China’s impressive economic growth and recognizes that this growth has significantly contributed to the further advancement of economic, social and cultural rights for many of its people.

The Netherlands is concerned however about the protection of civil and political rights, including the respect for freedom of religion or belief, and expansion of political re-education camps in Xinjiang, as was also expressed in the EU Item 4 statement during the 39th session of the Human Rights Council.

The Netherlands also recognizes the need for specific measures to be taken to ensure tolerance towards the LGBTI community in China.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends China:

1. To cooperate with and provide access to relevant UN bodies in order to help ensure that its policies in Xinjiang, particularly regarding the so-called “vocational education and training centers”, are in line with international human rights standards;
2. To adopt within 1 year legislation prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in all public and private sectors, and to provide positive duties on the part of governments to promote equality on these grounds. The Netherlands also recommends the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to adopt such legislation.

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

Thank you, Mr. President

**Advance questions**

* Which steps are required for China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and according to which timeline does China intend to take these steps?
* How and according to which timeline does China intend to expedite the registration of foreign NGOs working in all human rights related fields as defined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
* Which steps will China take to bring the Measures on the Administration of Law Firms (2016), the Measures on the Administration of Lawyers’ Practice (2016), and the Annual Inspection through the Judicial Bureau in line with articles 16(a) and 18 of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers?
* Can China indicate the steps that it has undertaken to implement the Netherlands’ 2013 UPR recommendation “to include a prohibition of discrimination of any kind, including discrimination based on [not just sex, but] sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnicity, religion and infection with HIV, in labor and employment law in line with international standards.”?
* Which steps will China undertake to implement the Concluding Observations on Xinjiang addressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in August 2018? Does China intend to allow the OHCHR Office to visit Xinjiang?
* To the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: which steps does Hong Kong intend to take to address international concerns about press freedom in Hong Kong and to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists to carry out their work independently and without undue interference?